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VALLEY STAR

VOLUME 60, ISSUE NO. 9 NOVEMBER 19, 2003 LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Celebrating Armenia

■ Valley celebrates Armenian culture and traditions.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

Brightly colored costumes of fuchsias and blues, exotic music and tantalizing aromas engulfed Monarch Square Nov. 12, inviting students to join in the fourth annual Armenian Culture Day sponsored by the Associated Student Union.

Nearly 50 people — the old, young and in between — celebrated one of the world's oldest continuous societies. The Armenian civilization has a recorded history dating back 3,500 years.

"The Armenian culture is pretty old," said Edgar Arisanyan, former president of the Armenian Student Association at California State University, Northridge. "It has a lot of interesting elements and we wanted to introduce those to Valley students."

Participants gave in to the appealing smell of barbecue the ASA prepared and served with Armenian dishes such as humus, tabouleh and rice.

Red, blue and orange banners corresponding to the Armenian flag adorned the stage where a lecture, given by Van Nuys High School students Samuel Sirakanyan and Vanda Ayrapetyan, celebrated Armenian history.

See *Armenia* page 7

A GALA AFFAIR



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNUS - Actor, activist and Valley College alumnus Ed Begley, Jr. speaks after receiving his award for outstanding support from the college and a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his work and efforts in supporting community colleges from Congressman Brad Sherman at the President's Gala at the Sheraton Universal Saturday. Begley was an honoree at the event along with Los Angeles City Council member Wendy Greuel. For more complete coverage of the President's Gala, please turn to page 4.

Money for the Taking

■ Valley College students can take advantage of abundance of unclaimed educational dollars.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Money doesn't grow on trees, but there are a few other places it can be found.

There is a tower next to the information counter in the administration building where free money can be found. Just take a leaflet from the scholarship tower, do the paperwork, then sit back and with any luck, wait for the bucks to come rolling in. There are a few extra dollars out there, waiting for someone who is willing to take the time to search and apply for this free money.

Corporations like Microsoft, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Coca-Cola and even Burger King have set up scholarships to aid students in paying for their college education.

"These gifted students are our country's future leaders, yet many of them cannot afford the high cost of a college education," Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said. "This program helps make college a reality so they can pursue their dreams and be models for others to follow."

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched a $1 billion

See *Money* page 6

Broadcasting Collects for the San Fernando Rescue Mission

■ Club captures the spirit of the holiday season and encourages giving.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Broadcasting Club is sending out the message of giving this holiday season. They're set to beat last year's overwhelming response to its annual food and toy drive for the San Fernando Rescue Mission.

"Last year the box of toys was so full that when we tried to move it to wrap it, it broke apart," said Denise Mendez, Broadcasting Club president. For the past three years, The Broadcasting Club has organized largely successful drives for canned food, clothing and toys.

Valley students can make the holidays a lot brighter for people in need. Disadvantaged and homeless Californians rely on the San Fernando Rescue Mission for help. The Mission knows they can rely on the generous students at Valley for aid at this time of year.

If your heart is open and you're able to share some extra cheer, donations of canned food and clothes and toys in decent condition may be brought to room 112 in the humanities building. For more information, please call Denise at (818) 947-2305 or (818) 625-2373.

Demonstrating Tomorrow's Tools

■ Technology Fair invites high school students to get a glimpse of careers in technology.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Several school buses bursting with students from Van Nuys, Poly Tech, Grant and Birmingham high schools, and Van Nuys Middle School converged on the Valley College campus to get a glimpse of the future.

Valley's first Technology Fair, held in Monarch Hall on Nov. 12, drew in nearly 300 curious students accompanied by teachers.

Many of the teachers are currently running technical programs for their students at the high school level, to prepare them for postsecondary education.

"We have excellent programs at Valley and we want them to come here after they finish high school," said career specialist Roberto Gutierrez, one of the organizers of the event. "There's a lot of good jobs out there in technology and we should be exciting these 12- and 13-year-olds now about what careers lie ahead for them."

Representatives from Boeing, Precision Dynamics, Konica-Minolta, Moore Industries and Sheffield

See *Technology* page 6



WENDY ALVARADO/VALLEY STAR

TOMORROW, TODAY - Valley College professor George Panyarachun shows bio-medical equipment at the Technology Fair Nov. 12.

Schwarzenegger Inaugurated

■ Actor takes on his new role as 38th governor.

BY PHILLIP ROBERTSON
NEWS EDITOR

Arnold Schwarzenegger assumed the role of his lifetime as California's 38th governor Monday, during a 45-minute ceremony on the steps of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

After receiving the oath from California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald George, the actor turned politician gave his inaugural address. "In the words of President Kennedy, I am an idealist without illusions," Schwarzenegger said.

In his first act as governor, Schwarzenegger repealed the tripling of the vehicle license registration.

Support for Schwarzenegger among Valley College students appears strong. "I am very excited," Spanish student Chase Laurelle Knowles said. "I think his strength will be good to pull California together. We have a strong leader who won't waffle. This will force people to work together."

Associated Student Union Vice President Erick Iniguez remains guardedly hopeful that the new governor will be successful, without endorsing him. "You can't be mad because another person won," Iniguez said. "We have to give him a chance to succeed or fail."

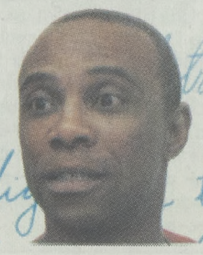
The new governor empha-

See *Governor* page 7



NICK SCHILLER/STATE HORNET, CSU SACRAMENTO

CALIFORNIA'S NEW FIRST COUPLE - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver wave to the crowd as former Gov. Gray Davis watches on the west steps of the Capitol Monday.



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
MULTI-TALENTED
ACTOR, TEACHER GARY YATES WORKS TO BALANCE HIS TEACHING AND ACTING CAREERS



SPORTS PG. 8
ROCK BOTTOM
FOOTBALL SCORES ITS WORST SEASON IN YEARS TO A HAPLESS PIERCE SQUAD IN A 29-38 DEBACLE



GALLERY PG. 10
MONARCH OF VALLEY
BENJAMIN FAVELA FOLLOWS SPEECH PROFESSOR ANDRÉS TORRES AS HE TENDS TO HIS BELOVED HORSES

NEWS REEL

DALLAS; NOV. 22, 1963:

Saturday marks the 40th anniversay of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy during a political swing through Dallas. On that Friday morning Valley College closed its doors as word spread across the country.

"Catastrophic events teach us never to forget," political science professor Ken Ciminoc said. "The American Dream ended with JFK." Each generation has a moment which defines its focus and place in history: to 'Generation X' that moment was 9/11; to the baby boomers it was JFK's assassination, he said.

GUILTY:

John Allen Muhammad was convicted Monday on two counts of murder for his involvement in last year's sniper shooting spree in the Washington, DC area, which ultimately left 10 people dead. Muhammad could face the death penalty for his crimes.

PASS THE POTATOES:

Jones Soda Co. unveiled a new turkey and gravy flavored soda for sale in markets located in Washington and Michigan.

"With consumers becoming more health conscious, Jones Soda's Turkey & Gravy-flavored beverage is a zero calorie and zero carbohydrate beverage that can be served warm or cold with full flavor that will meet and will exceed our customers' expectations," said Peter van Stolk, president and CEO of Jones Soda Co.

75 YEARS YOUNG:

The Walt Disney Co. celebrated the 75th anniversary of signature characters Mickey and Minnie Mouse Tuesday with festivities throughout the company's theme parks. The duo appeared in the first sychronized sound cartoon "Steamboat Willie" in 1928.

Valley Student Runs for Los Angeles City Council

■ **Local activist Greg Martayan has big dreams for the big city.**

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

Already establishing himself as an accomplished leader, former Valley College student and Commissioner to the City of Los Angeles, Greg Martayan, has set his sights on something higher, the Los Angeles City Council.

"The city of Los Angeles is an extraordinary place, and no region like it exists anywhere in the world," the 19-year-old native Angeleno said. "We're the second largest city in the United States and we are located in the world's fifth largest economy. What we do in Los Angeles acts as a model for the rest of the nation and the international community."

Martayan is running in the 2005 city council elections in District 5 against Jack Weiss, who is several years his senior. District 5 includes the communities of Encino, Sherman Oaks, Valley Village, Palms, Westwood, Century City, Beverlywood, the Fairfax District, Cheviot Hills and Carthay Circle, as well as the hillside communities between the 405 Freeway and Laurel Canyon.

"Every member in this city is an asset," Martayan said. "My administration will do everything in its power to protect, to serve and to educate those assets."

From a young age, Martayan has involved himself in many local and national projects and helped create an Executive Board of Youth, which acts as a resource center providing assistance to several youth-oriented agencies across the United States. Through his work with the National Youth Advisory Council Martayan has traveled across the nation promoting the importance of service and leadership among youth.

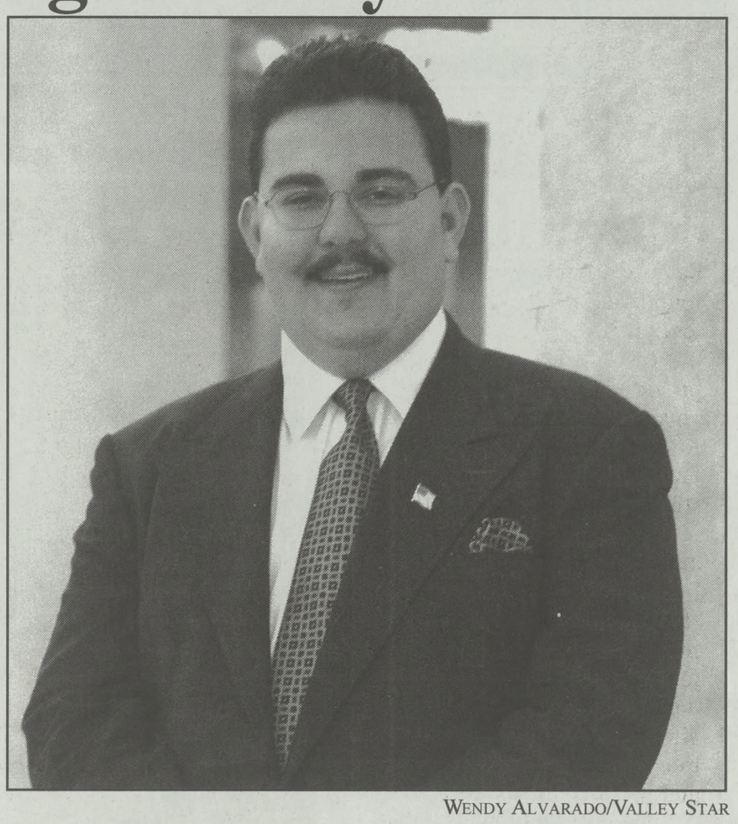
"This is a real sharp kid," Valley professor, Alfred Hutchings said. "He has the potential to be much more than city council."

Martayan's actions have established him as one of the key players in government today. His overall goal is to make his district the best by serving the people of Los Angeles with integrity, honesty and goodwill.

"His commitment to families, to youth, to programs and his willingness as a young person to participate at this level is outstanding and is to be commended," Los Angeles Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski said.

"Once we build a sense of community and once the people feel united in the city of Los Angeles, crime will inevitably come down," Martayan said. "Neighbors can be neighbors again. I want people to leave their front doors open and feel comfortable leaving their homes."

For additional information, visit Martayan's website at www.joingreg.com.



WENDY ALVARADO/VALLEY STAR

ON THE RUN - Los Angeles Valley College student Greg Martayan, 19, launches his bid for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council.

Broadcasting Club Struggles for Funds

■ **Initial request to Inter-Club Club Council for $626.87 is denied.**

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Valley College student Denise Mendez has paid out of her own pocket for sound system rental fees for various campus events.

Mendez, Broadcasting Club president, says the club has gone broke absorbing the expense of renting sound equipment for various campus club and student activities. She hopes her club can get funding from the Associated Student Union or Inter-Club Council to purchase their own equipment.

The Broadcasting Club has paid at least $150 in rental fees for each club event that needed a sound system. "All of our club money is gone," Mendez said. "I'm spending my own money to keep providing this equipment."

According to Mendez, most campus clubs didn't know that the college doesn't own sound equipment or how much it costs for equipment rental, according to Mendez.

Tanarat Eaksuchon, ASU commissioner of athletics, said that The Broadcasting Club provided services for many events. "I think it would be better if they own the equipment instead of renting," Eaksuchon said.

Mendez said the broadcasting club was pleased to provide this service to other campus groups, but getting approval for their request for fund allocation from ICC or the ASU is crucial to be able to continue.

"It helps us become better broadcasters if we can be a part of events," Mendez said. The club raised their membership dues in order to come up their part of the needed funds.

Mendez requested funds for sound equipment at the most recent ASU meeting. She explained to student representatives that she had searched for the best deal on equipment and made a request for $626.87.

"I understand that it may take some time and patience for student groups to put together the needed funds," Mendez said.

Based on the positive response from student government Mendez may be able to purchase the equipment

See *Request* page 6

No Vacancy: Class Size Limit Inconsistent Among Teachers

■ **Class size limits may complicate winter enrollment.**

BY KENDRA HARTMANN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

With the beginning of winter registration Valley College student Eugene Belyarchik remembers the frustration of showing up for an over-crowded English class at the beginning of the semester. There were 60 students in the room, 25 of whom were hoping to add the class.

Usually, this is a hopeless situation for those wishing to add a humanities class where personal attention is important. The instructor, however, informed the students that he would add everyone to the roster.

"He said we could stand, sit on the floor, whatever," Belyarchik said. "But he told us that if we were late three times, we would be automatically dropped from the class." By the end of the second week of class, there were still 25 students standing.

The maximum number of students that instructors are supposed to allow into a class is 35. With the cutbacks that California schools have been experiencing many classes have been cut. Combine that with the

See *Class* page 7

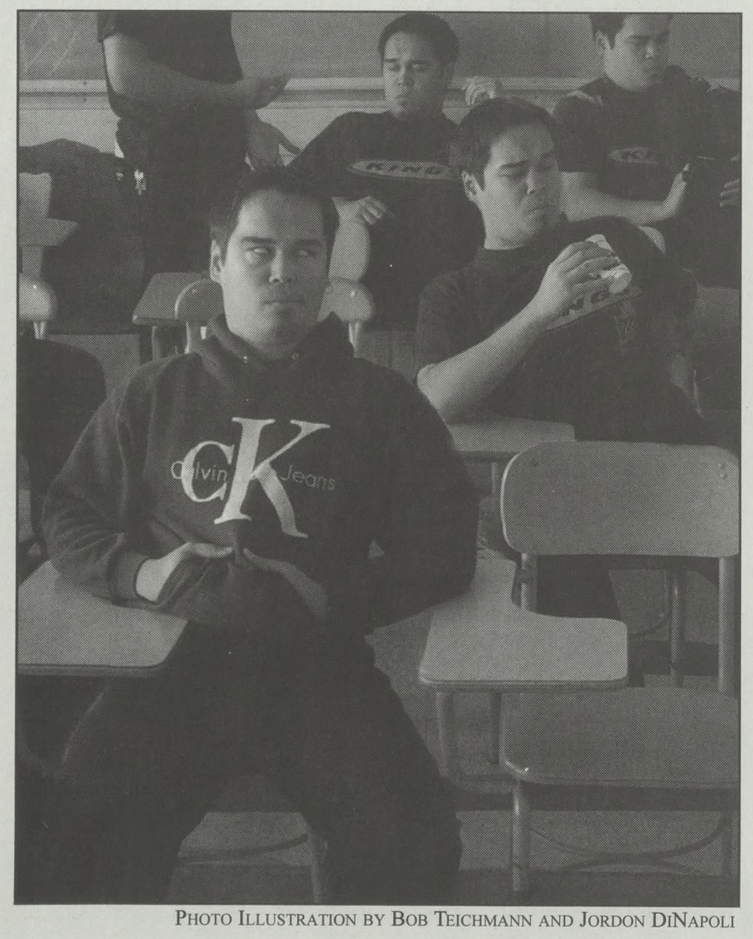


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BOB TEICHMANN AND JORDON DINAPOLI

Independent Living Possible

■ **Foster children learn life skills through Valley College program.**

BY TAMMY ABBOTT
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

When foster children enter the world of adulthood it's likely that they lack a few basic skills. Concerned and caring members of this community have collaborated to create the Independent Living Program to educate and prepare this group for a successful adult life. Presented here is the first of a three-part series about the program and its students.

California is home to more than 90,000 children living in either group homes or individual foster homes. That's equivalent to the entire population of Burbank.

Valley College does its part to help these children who, for a variety of reasons, have been disenfranchised from the mainstream of society. Three times a year in a class called the Independent Living Program Valley's Student Services works to enrich a group of 25 young adults, ages 16 to 21, who are about to be returned to their communities.

Class begins at 6:30 p.m. and the kids are restless after having their dinner of Subway sandwiches, chips and sodas.

Educator Andre Hayes teaches them about budgeting and job interviewing. After the usual teenage switching of seats and a reminder that there is no listening to music, Hayes begins. He demonstrates how patience and determination to stick to the subject is rewarded when it becomes clear that the children know the tax advantages of putting money into a retirement account. Later, after some role-playing with a job interview Hayes said, "You're the best, and the best never stop trying." The students respond with some smiles, and other forms of body language indicating his message of pride is connecting.

The class meets for 30 hours: twice a week for ten weeks, and teaches the life skills that absent parents and family would normally explain. Since these foster children are moved an average of 12 times during their childhood, this is an important step into adulthood. It's a monumental task to impart to them the wisdom to deal with the hundreds of issues and choices they're about to face on a daily basis; a task for which success is vital to their future and for society at large. For their participation, the young adults are rewarded with a certificate of completion and $100 to spend any way they choose.

See *Foster* page 7

ASU Working For You!

Be a part of student government!

Open Position:

Chief Justice

The Chief Justice is responsible for investigating inappropriate behavior by members of the Executive Council or Inter Club Council.

Applications in Campus Center 102 or download from
www.lavc.edu/StudentServWebsite/ASU/index.html

DEADLINE: Monday, December 1, 2003

For more information, call (818) 778-5516

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OPINION

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.

THIS WEEK: **SHOULD CLASS SIZE LIMITS BE STRICTLY ENFORCED?**

SIZE DOES MATTER

BY EMILY CHAMBERLAIN
FOR THE STAR

Extreme circumstances have compromised the very foundation of community colleges this past year.

Institutions dedicated to providing higher education to anyone who wants it are now forced by fiscal difficulty to face the possibility of turning students away.

In 2003, Gov. Gray Davis authorized more than $161 million in budget cuts, slashing state education funds and leaving administrators scrambling for ways to balance supply with demand. Community colleges all over the state were forced to cut programs, cancel classes and increase tuition fees.

The UC and CSU systems, facing their own budget woes, capped their fall enrollment and turned away 30,000 students statewide. Where do these students go? They show up at the doors of the community colleges, where open enrollment guarantees admission to anyone.

If overcrowding wasn't a problem before, it certainly is now.

"In the summer, some classes had 90 students willing to come, sit on the floor, waiting for people to drop out so they could get a seat," said Cindy Sardo, public relations director at Valley College.

Sympathetic teachers wanting to help students frustrated with the lack of available courses are pressured to add five, 10, even 15 extra students to each class.

A doctor with enough vaccine for 10 children wouldn't dilute the solution for 20.

This may be construed as helpful to some, but in reality it is a disservice to students and drives down the quality of education in the classroom.

Community colleges receive funding for up to 35 students per class. The school is not compensated for students above that number, which means resources allocated for 35 students must now be spread among 50 to 60.

Just as a doctor with vaccine enough for 10 children would not dilute the solution to serve 20, teachers should not dilute the resources and cheapen the quality of education for all the students in the class.

It's not just lecture classes with 10 extra brains producing more questions and comments hindering the progress of a lesson, but it's six chemistry students standing around one beaker, computer labs with hour-long waiting lists and competition for research materials in the library.

It's teachers spending more time grading blue book exams than preparing lessons, and a breakdown of the individual attention community colleges traditionally offer.

"Community colleges are at a point at which the public's access to classes and services is on the chopping block," said Constance Carroll, president of San Diego Mesa College. "As a long-term goal, California … needs to develop a plan that would have at its heart a commitment to meet the public's need and demand for a higher education and vocational training by providing the funds necessary to do so."

Until that goal is realized, teachers and administrators should be willing to make the tough decisions, thereby maintaining a higher standard of learning and producing more competitive students. They are the work force of the future.

CLASS STRUGGLE AT VALLEY COLLEGE

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Thirty-five is the magic number.

After all, until that ripe old age, non-felons born in the United States can't become president. Episode 35 of the original "Star Trek" series is the classic "Doomsday Machine," in which a giant cream horn menaces the solar system.

And, we are told, when community college classes exceed 35 students, teachers magically become incapable of teaching.

Those who would strictly enforce class size limits at 35 believe there is a set formula to determine how well an instructor can communicate or students can learn, as if beyond that the saloon doors are flung open and hordes of drunken cowboys storm through.



ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

But what self-respecting teacher would take far more students than he or she could effectively instruct? Don't they know their own limits and those of the material better than bureaucrats six or seven bureaus removed?

Such regulations are usually concocted by administrators or politicians scheming to cut corners and are often based on dry data, manipulated to support simplistic solutions to complex problems.

Some downtown Moses has handed down Commandment 35 from the Mount, and we are to take it as Bible truth.

But many administrators have little or no classroom experience, and others are often out of touch with schools' rapidly evolving needs.

Giving them the ultimate say in a decision as basic as how many students a teacher can teach is like giving the head of the EPA power over how much wood a woodchuck would chuck.

Given, then, that teachers should wield ultimate power in their domains, let's not forget … the children.

True, the children in this case are 27 years old on average, but don't they need love (and prerequisites) too?

When students shoehorn themselves into crowded classrooms, it's not just for kicks. They are seeking important units for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Often, they must squeeze into standing room only, fluorescent-lit torture chambers at bizarre hours in their desperate need to fulfill an arcane math requirement.

Without the mercy of instructors willing to push the boundaries, these pathetic waifs would be consigned to limbo, those hated words, "Wait until next semester," ringing in their mite-ridden ears.

If this were a private university, where abundant funding makes for better teacher-student ratios, it would be a different story.

But this is a community college, which is intended to serve the greatest number of students possible, and at sadly inadequate funding levels. To turn students away at this level would be to give them little chance to get to the next level.

And most classes that experience overcrowding are IGETC requirements and the like – Biology, Statistics, Psychology – often standardized courses that can be taught to large numbers of students without a significant drop-off in teacher performance.

As long as teachers know their limitations, and until the state funds the extra classes needed to accommodate the students clamoring for these courses, the 35th Commandment is made to be broken.

Do it for the children.

It's a Prophylactical Day in the Neighborhood

Strip clubs present stiff opposition to city's lap dance ban.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Won't you please, don't you please, please don't you be my neighbor …

In residential neighborhoods near strip clubs, complaints of used condoms littering the streets, prostitution, drugs and other illicit activity have sparked a battle between club owners and lawmakers.

In September, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously banned all bodily contact between dancers and customers, outlawed private nude dances, prohibited direct tipping and required dancers to remain at least six feet from customers.

The strip clubs and their customers didn't take this sitting down. They emerged from their private booths, pen in hand, to sign a petition against the restrictions.

Club owners say the ban infringes on their First Amendment rights and would force many out of business. They spent $400,000 to gather the required 57,000 signatures to force the no-touch measure into a holding pattern. The city now has until Nov. 24 to decide whether to rescind the ordinance, place a referendum on the next citywide ballot in 2005 or add the question to the Democratic presidential primary in March.

According to the city, putting the issue before voters will cost L.A. an estimated $2.8 million.

Can you say, "fiscally unfeasible," boys and girls? I knew you could.

"Voters in Los Angeles do not wish to have their public safety resources wasted on over-regulation of adult entertainment," said Steven Afriat, campaign manager for adult entertainment businesses seeking the referendum. "The voters know needless legislation when they see it."

But do voters know that the real problem is that this patriarchal society with a Puritan heritage tries to legislate prostitution by degrees?

Men who draw a moral line between paying a woman to dance naked and paying for intercourse have created this conundrum, leading to the proliferation of clubs and services that attempt to operate just within the limits of that law.

Imagine if buying ice cream for the purpose of eating it was considered morally offensive. Would we allow Baskin-Robbins to operate if they only sold ice cream for customers to look at? Would we allow the sale of chocolate-covered sundaes as long as we hired security guards to make certain that customers just looked at the ice cream but couldn't touch or actually eat it?

Legalizing the sale of ice cream for viewing purposes and attempting to enforce the no-eating rule would be a mess of banana splits and crushed nuts. People are already buying the ice cream; whether they choose to look at it, eat it or wear it as a brooch is irrelevant.

It would be a lot less sticky to deal with the entire sex-entertainment industry if we classified strippers and prostitutes under the same legal definition – the same category as waitresses and nurses: the regulated tax-paying category. After all, what is the difference between the sale of women as sex objects for stripping or for full-on intercourse?

Like it or not, nudity and porn are not only instantly accessible but often met with a yawn. And yet some lawmakers continue efforts to legally impose morality upon citizens.

If this society could move beyond Puritanism and into the world of practicality, we would legalize prostitution, set up zoning restrictions to preserve property values and neighborhood safety, and collect taxes on the proceeds from all parts of America's booming multi-billion dollar sex-entertainment business.

Laws come and go, social and moral values sway, but prostitution in all its forms is here to stay.

Politicians should stop dancing around the real issue and set up practical measures to ensure proper regulation of and privacy for sex-for-money businesses.

As to those neighbors who have been naughty, they should be spanked. As long as they have their credit cards ready.

Intricate laws and regulations to combat prostitution won't change the fact that strip clubs and their patrons aren't part of a beautiful day in the neighborhood. Except if you're Mr. McFeely in the Land of Make-Believe.

Can You Mess Around with Gays?

BY HARRIET STEINBERG
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes we're friendly with our gay classmates just to be politically correct. But how do you really feel if you see a gay couple walking down the street holding hands?

Are you really comfortable with homosexuals? What if you found out the teammate in the shower with your were gay? How about homosexuals in the police force or having a gay doctor examine you?

This disconnect between what people say and the way they feel comes to mind because of recent events. Sports reporter Ed Gray came out of the closet and got very little support from the sports community for his bravery. And as discussed on this page last week, the insane Rev. Fred Phelps wants to erect a monument celebrating the murder of a gay man in a park in Wyoming. Where is the outrage? Where is the clamor?

Some people go out of their way just to show that they approve of the gay lifestyle. One lady I know helps her two gay neighbors by taking in their mail when they are out of town. She walks their dog once in a while and has friendly chats with them. And behind their backs, she calls them "faggots."

Many people have little trouble saying publicly that gays are people too, but believe privately that homosexuals commit mortal sins and will go to hell.

Recent studies strongly imply that sexuality may be genetic as opposed to being due to upbringing and environment – or a sinful choice. According to Dr. Norman, a DNA researcher, gayness is, "Merely an innate predisposition."

At Oasis of West Hollywood, a school for gay and lesbian teenagers, kids are free to talk about their experiences. Christian Alvarez said, "I knew I was different from the time I was 5 years old, when I had a crush on another boy." Another student reported that he felt like a woman in man's body.

Considering the pain associated with being gay in this society, what person would choose this lifestyle when they know they are going to be harassed or maybe killed for it?

Well, watch out, because they're not going anywhere.

Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova showed that openly gay women could be huge tennis stars, the best in the world. Multiple medal-winning American hero, Greg Louganis, was out of the closet by his third Olympics in 1988. Two former major leaguers, Glen Burke and Billy Bean, have come out, as has former NFL lineman Esera Tuaolo.

To make matters worse for knee-knocking locker room homophobes, it's widely accepted that as much as 10 percent of the population swings that way – so if there are 45 guys in the shower after the game … well, you do the math.

Polls show that more and more people are accepting gays. TV shows like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Will and Grace" routinely score big ratings.

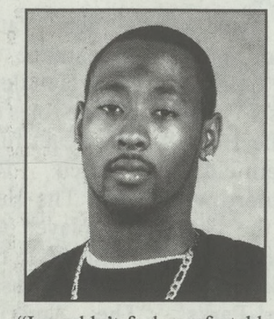
Connie Ress, a spokeswoman for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said, "Things are better than they were 10 years ago and things will be better 10 years from now."

So let's all say it together: "They're here, they're queer, GET USED TO IT!"

CampusView

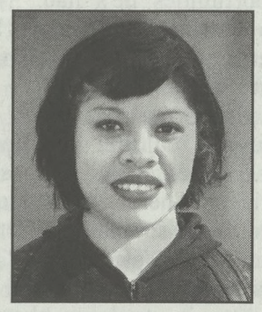
Would you be comfortable with an openly gay teammate in the locker room?

PHOTOS BY WENDY ALVARADO



"I wouldn't feel comfortable with them looking at me in a sexual way. Being gay is not right."

Don Daniels



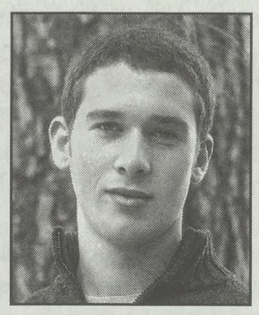
"I wouldn't have a problem because everybody in the locker room minds their own business."

Brenda de la Luz



"It's not a big deal! We are all adults and we should feel comfortable around any kind of people and not make them feel uncomfortable either."

Kurejea Guthrie



"I wouldn't feel comfortable because I would feel like they were looking at me or coming on to me."

Nate Richards

The Valley Star welcomes your comments and criticism.
E-mail us at **TheValleyStar@yahoo.com**
or drop us a line at BJ114.
Be sure to include your name and contact information.
Please limit your letters to 200-300 words.
(818) 947-2576

Valley Life

CAMPUS SCENE

Thursday, Nov. 20

LAVC Jazz Band
Music Room 112
11:30 a.m.

ETUDES: A Short Introduction
Presented by Stars & Virtual Valley Speaker, Marion Heyn.
2:30 p.m. Monarch Den

The Imaginary Invalid
Mainstage Theatre
Nov. 20-22
Admission Charge
8:00 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 21

Last day to drop a class with a **"W."**

Sunday Nov. 23

The Valley Symphony Orchestra
Mainstage Theatre
Admission Charge
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Nov. 25

Out of Our Fathers House
Lab Theatre Stage
1 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Wednesday Nov. 26

Out Of Our Fathers House
Lab Theatre Stage
1 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT'S GALA

Jacqui Brown
Staff Writer

It was glamour at its best as faculty, staff, patrons, elected officials and friends of Valley College transformed themselves for a night of fine dining, dancing and fundraising at this year's President's Gala Saturday.

Tyree Wieder, president of Valley, bedecked in silver from head to toe, looked every bit the belle of the ball with husband Les and beautiful daughter Shavonne at her side, as she graciously accepted the many accolades bestowed upon her for the way she has put the "little jewel in the Valley" on the map.

"One of the most important things we're here to do tonight is to support the Los Angeles Valley College Patrons Foundation," Wieder said. "It's wonderful that these people work tirelessly to support our students and our college."

The evening honored City Council Member Wendy Greuel, who fought hard after being elected to include Valley into the boundaries of her district, and actor and alumnus Ed Begley, Jr., who attended Valley in the mid-sixties. Each received an award for outstanding support from the college and a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for their work and efforts in supporting community colleges from Congressman Brad Sherman.



Tammy Abbott/Valley Star

"NOW IT'S TIME TO PARTY" - A glowing Tyree Wieder, president of Valley College, encourages guests to dance.

"It means a lot to me to be honored by Valley College," Greuel said. "It's a proud place in the Valley and we need to tell more people to support it. Things they are doing at this school are filling a niche that is so critical for Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley."

Begely, Jr., who has become famous for his roles on television and film and for his passion for preserving the environment, said he was grateful that Valley College gave him the skill set which he used to conquer an industry.

"I got an appreciation of the diversity of the college back then that continues today," Begley said. "If somebody wants to learn skills in this very important business in California, the entertainment business, you're going to get the best skills right here at Valley. I'm proud to be an alumnus of this institution."

State Senator Jack Scott, who spent 23 years in the community college system and served as president at City College before entering politics, joined the festive evening, elated that so many people came out to support the campus.

"I work very hard on seeing that the community colleges get a just share of their desserts," Scott said. "It's a great cause and I'm happy to be here tonight to support it."

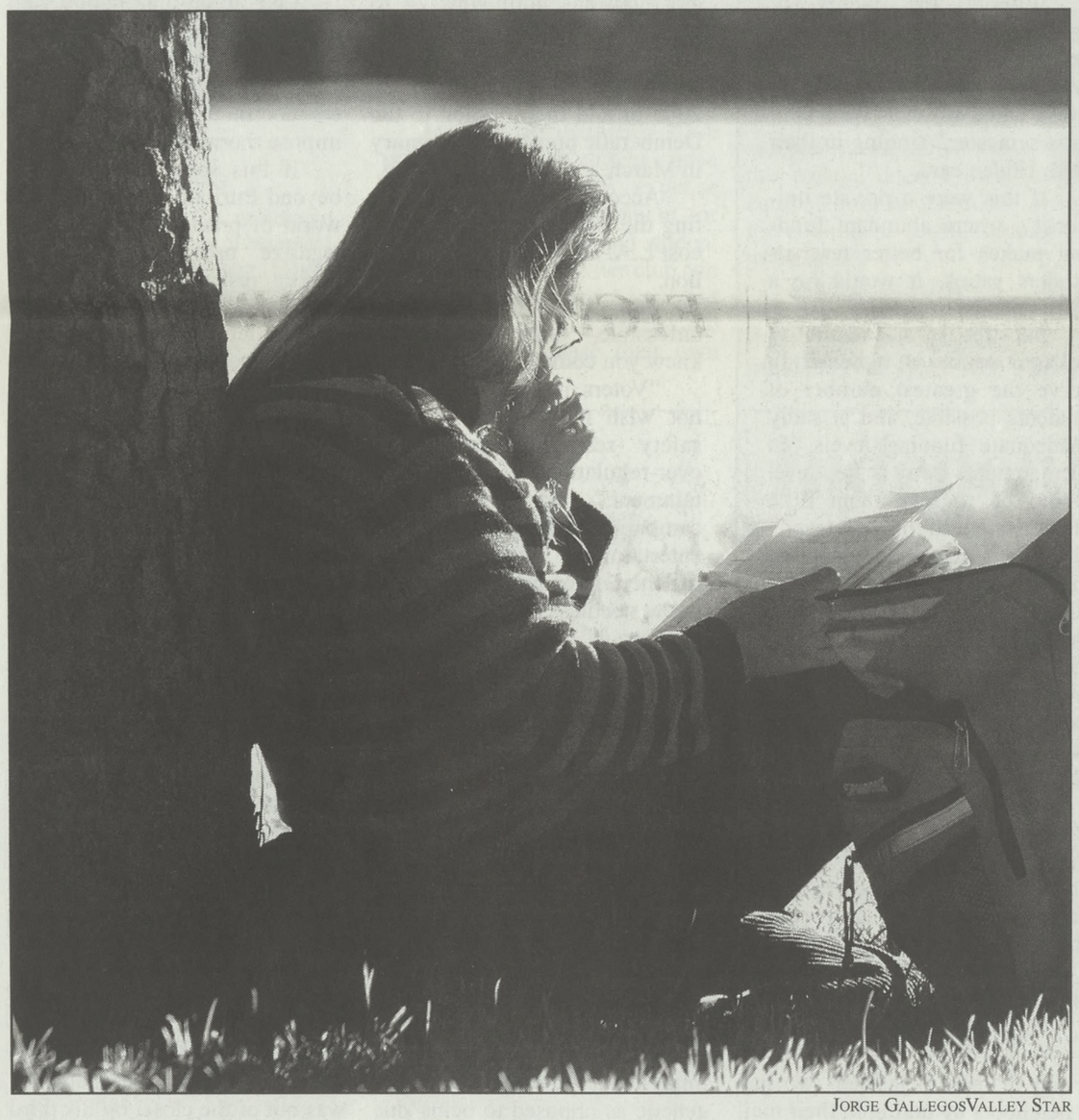
Michael Weinper, president of the Patrons Association, said that this was one of the highlights for the Association and was proud to have 400 people at the event to honor Greuel and Begley, Jr.

"It's a great opportunity to say thanks to the people who are leaders in the community," Weinper said. "All the support we get allows everyone to be a winner. Last year's gala increased funds for scholarships by 15 percent. This year's gala has doubled that figure."

President of East L.A. College, Ernie Moreno, came out for the event accompanied by his beautiful wife. "Any president would be extremely happy to have this kind of support for their college," Moreno said. "I admire that."

Mona Field, president of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees, summed up the evening in one sentence. "It's always a beautiful evening to get together with supporters of Valley College," Field said. "You see the joyous way that they love this college."

Raul Castillo, executive director of the Patron's Association and organizer of the gala, let off some steam on the dance floor. "I think this was a phenomenal success, a great turnout and a wonderful affirmation of our foundation."



Jorge GallegosValley Star

STUDYING TIME - Political science student Gralia Vega studies for her class in Monarch Square Tuesday. Finals begin December 15th.

Culture On A Dime:

HOLIDAY CHEER

By Tammy Abbott
Valley Life Editor

Discover new sounds this holiday season.

Plan to take a break from all the last-minute shopping on Christmas Eve, because the Annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration is a free treat that can't be missed! For the past 44 years, the celebration has been presented at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and this year is no exception. The program will be packed to with the talented community choir and additional musical groups and instrumentalists. On Dec. 24 the concert begins at 3 p.m. and the last chord isn't played until 9 p.m. So while you're out, stop by and grab a seat. If you can't make it downtown, it'll be broadcast on KCET.

Some of the finest concert and choral pieces in history were written for the church, for not just religious reasons, but because the religious institutions could afford to pay the artists for their compositions and to produce the music. One doesn't have to be of a particular religion to enjoy such timeless music as Vivaldi's, "Gloria," or Handel's, "Messiah."

Since the earliest drum beats, our ancient ancestors' music has touched the human heart and is a wonderful way to bring people together. Go to a concert this holiday season and enjoy the time-tested melodies, they're guaranteed to uplift you.

UNIQUE BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE GIVES INSTRUCTOR EDGE

■ **Gary Yates, campus Job Training instructor and actor**

Susan Maltby
Staff Writer

Job Training students in English as a Second Language classes at Valley College get an additional benefit by having a professor and performer in one. Gary Yates has been teaching ESL since March and his experience as an actor with extensive film, television and theater credits gives his students an extra bonus.

"I can both entertain and be entertained by my students," Yates said. "In that respect, humor creates a common ground of understanding." He believes that classroom learning should be exciting and tries to bring lessons from his experiences to the students, including the importance of a good attitude. "Once you put that positive energy in the room, people are more relaxed to learn," he said.

Yates finds both careers rewarding and works to always maintain a balance between teaching and performing. "I realize how vital and fundamental both roles are to my life and I've never had a major conflict between the two, they both serve their purpose," Yates said.

He appreciates helping students overcome the challenges of learning. "For people with limited proficiency in English, my class is the first stop on the road to success. They're gaining basic tools which will make a fundamental difference in their lives," he said.

Dale Beck, program specialist for the campus Job Training Center, is impressed with Yates' teaching style and his ability to relate to the students. "He has an ability to connect with students and draw their potential from them," Beck said.

"Humor creates a common ground of understanding."

Yates decided to settle in the San Fernando Valley in January after numerous visits to Los Angeles for his work in the entertainment industry. He feels very fortunate to be teaching at Valley and for the opportunities he's had. "The Job Training Program has been very embracing of me," Yates said.

California has been an enjoyable cultural experience for Yates, a Tennessee native. "There are students here from so many different countries," Yates said. "The classroom setting gives me the opportunity to learn about a variety of cultures."

He's grateful that the Job Training department has given him the freedom to utilize his broad range of experience and bring new approaches and integrative techniques to the classroom. His students learn through the use of video, audio, role-playing as well as some standard teaching ideas.

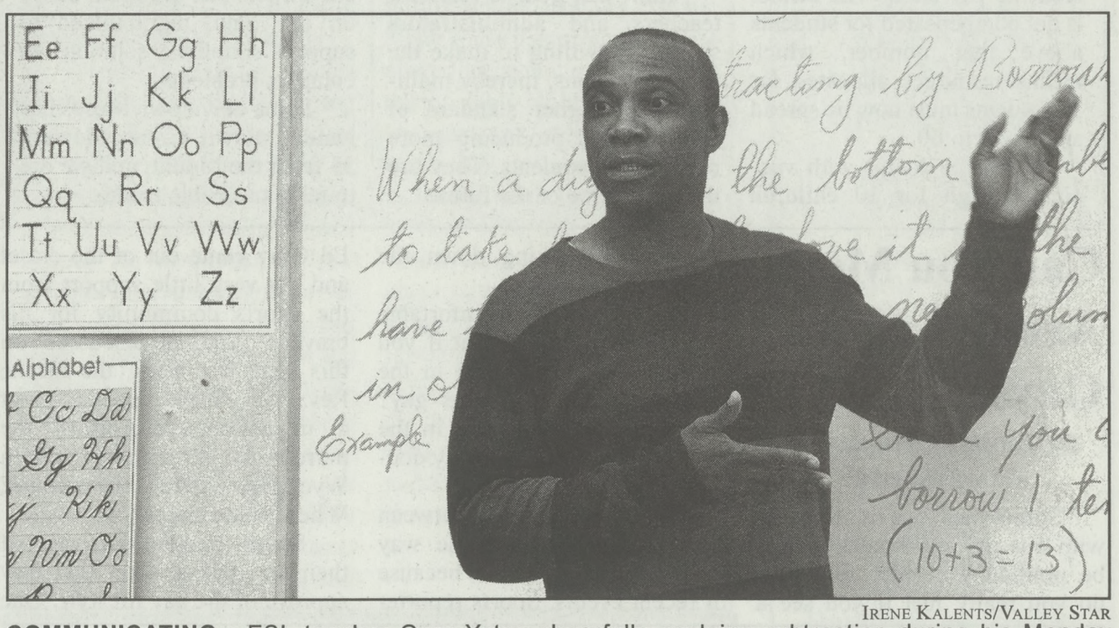
"The students don't get bored in my class. I make sure that I vary my methods often," he said. "When they seem like their energy level is falling, I switch to a new activity to keep things interesting."

Yates' teaching experience comes from his years instructing speech, drama and theater at Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta Metropolitan College and Spelman College.

"Many of my former students are now living here and working in the industry," he said. His past students include Emmanuel Lewis of "Webster" and Keisha Knight Pulliam, who played Rudy Huxtable on "The Cosby Show."

Two weeks ago Yates made a guest appearance on the CBS show "The Handler." His TV credits include roles on "The Bold & The Beautiful," "Seinfeld," "Search For Tomorrow" and "In The Heat of the Night." He played the role of Abraham Lincoln in the Atlanta production of Susan Lori-Parks' "The America Play."

Although he may not have given his Oscar speech yet, Yates is quick to grant credit to his pupils for his success as a teacher, "The students make it a wonderful experience."



Irene Kalents/Valley Star

COMMUNICATING - ESL teacher Gary Yates cheerfully explains subtraction during his Monday class.

VALLEY LIFE

FILM CLIPS

■ A Quick Look at Current Releases

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

INTOLERABLE CRUELTY ★★★1/2

When is a Coen Brothers movie not a Coen Brothers movie? Apparently, when the Coens are only two of the five writers involved in the screenplay. "Intolerable Cruelty" is a perfectly affable screwball comedy, with a finely-tuned performance by George Clooney at his most Cary Grant-like.

From any other filmmakers, it would probably receive an enthusiastic response for its absurdity and crispness; for Coen enthusiasts it's bound to be viewed as a minor disappointment for its conventionality.

It's solid entertainment; light, quick and delightfully vicious. For the initiated, the best way to appreciate this movie is probably to forget who co-wrote and directed it. For the uninitiated, enjoy.

MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD ★★★

Thank goodness for the Paul Bettany character in Peter Weir's new 1700s naval epic. As the ship's highly intelligent but landlubber doctor, he more than once says, in effect, "Something terribly exciting just happened nautically, I'm sure," and the audience shares his confusion and excitement.

"Master and Commander," based on novels by Patrick O'Brian, certainly gives one the impression of verisimilitude — sometimes to the detriment of comprehensibility. In other words, I often thought, "That was interesting — what just happened?"

Still, the fine script by Weir and John Collee wonderfully captures what one imagines was the diction of the time, as when Russell Crowe's Captain Jack Aubrey dismisses a story with, "Oh, what pitiful stuff; that's mere enthusiasm." The acting is uniformly strong, especially by Bettany, and the naval combat sequences are exciting. Crowe is suitably commanding, although there's a certain mirth missing from his performance that, say, Mel Gibson might have provided. Weir's leisurely pacing makes the film feel longer than its 2 hour, 18 minute length, though.

MYSTIC RIVER ★★★★

Clint Eastwood seems to be at his best when directing stories about the inexorable pull of fate. "Pale Rider" and the brilliant "Unforgiven" both featured characters who couldn't seem to break away from the paths before them. The same is true for the emotional and disturbing "Mystic River," which first finds three friends at a traumatic childhood turning point and then picks up their story decades later, when another tragedy brings them together again. The theme of, "There but for the grace of God go I," underscores the action as we see the grown men struggling to cope with where their pasts are leading them.

The script has some bumpy moments but is generally fine, with well-observed dialogue and interesting twists. Eastwood's assured direction fully realizes scenes and isn't afraid to give moments room to breathe. Tim Robbins turns in what may be the finest performance of his career as the most troubled of the friends, and Marcia Gay Harden is fine as his dread-filled wife.

It's Sean Penn, though, who ignites the film. Long one of America's finest actors, he absolutely owns the screen with his portrayal of a desperate man wrestling his good and bad angels. Don't be surprised if "Mystic River" makes a big splash at Oscar time.

SCHOOL OF ROCK ★★★1/2

Make no mistake; this is a Jack Black movie from start to finish. "School of Rock" provides a fine vehicle for Black's manic energy and his musical talents as he attempts to mold a class of gifted students at a hoity-toity school into a kick-ass rock'n'roll band. That being said, the enduring charm of the film comes from the extraordinarily well-cast children.

As in the '80s Val Kilmer comedy "Real Genius," the fun of this flick is watching the naïvete of geniuses learning to rock. For hardcore headbangers, there is the added bonus of Black's countless, painstaking and heartfelt references to rock trivia. Rock on!



WENDY ALVARADO/VALLEY STAR

KEYS OF MUSIC - Thomas Otten (right) and Ronna Binn (left) played the Concerto in F by George Gershwin during the duo's performance in the Music Recital Hall Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

Dueling Pianos

BY HARRIET STEINBERG
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College music department, the Associated Student Union and students always welcome the neighboring residents to enjoy concerts on campus, including the Thursday, 11:30 a.m. performances.

Pianists Thomas Otten and Ronna Binn divided the music recital hall while at the same time uniting it with their excellent musicianship.

"Most people are on [the left] side of the room because they want to watch the pianist play," music chairperson Diane Wintrob said. The audience watched as well as heard the titillating runs, trills and octaves played by the two talented pianists.

When the duo played "Concerto in F" by George Gershwin Otten explained to the audience that the piece is written for a soloist and orchestra. "In this situation," he said, "Since there is no orchestra, it was arranged for two piano." Otten played the solo, while Binn played the orchestra part.

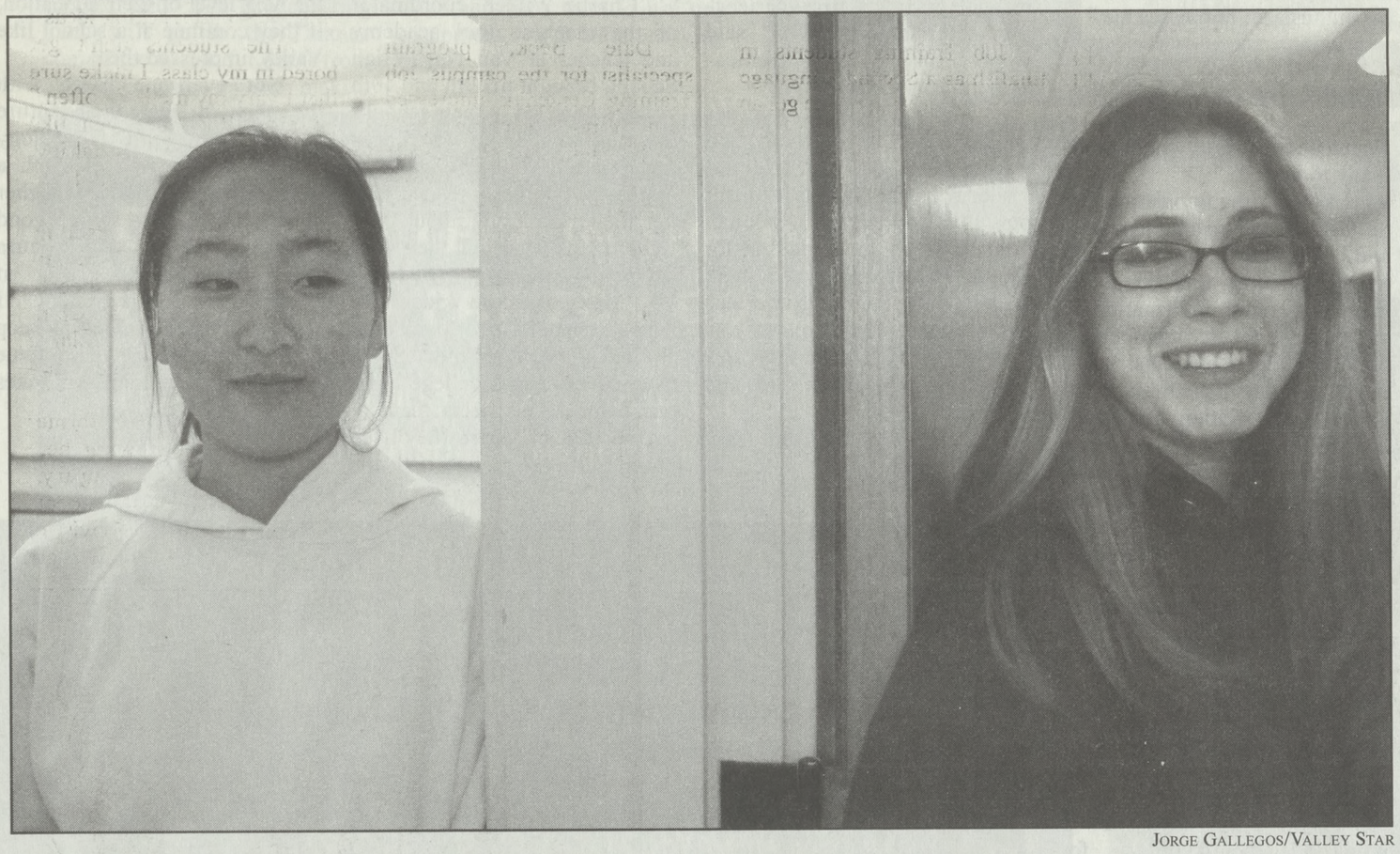
"Concerto in F" had contrast in its content, with the sober melody set against tricky runs. The serious tones in this piece brought out the deep meditative breathing of some of the listeners.

By the applause and standing ovation, it was a dead give away that this audience enjoyed the performance.

In "Rigoletto: Concerto Paraphrase" by Giuseppe Verdi and Franz Liszt, Otten combined Verdi and Liszt and presented his own interpretation that was a light and melodic number.

"I believe Thomas Otten really brought out Franz Liszt when he played," music student Alyssa Watts said. "He did an amazing job, something like that had to take incredible concentration."

The concert ended with "ahs" and "ohs" from the delighted listeners.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

YOUNG MONARCHS - Suji Kim, 15, left, a North Hollywood High School student, and Daniele Jokolosky, 16, right, from Van Nuys High School take French classes at Valley to get a head start on their college careers.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GET THE EDGE ON COLLEGE

■ Ambitious Minds Frequent Valley Classes.

BY NAYIBE GULESIAN
STAFF WRITER

The sound of the last bell at high school marks the beginning of the teen-age afternoon of freedom for most students, while for others it marks the beginning of a new chapter in life — college.

Seniors Krystle Mantolino, Jarell Ignacio and Fernell Romero make the trip from James Monroe High to the Valley College campus in time for their 5:45 p.m. class. They have made the decision to trade a part of their social life for more books.

"In college, we're more on our own," Mantolino said, explaining that college professors allow students to have more responsibility. Mantolino hopes to continue her studies at UCLA next fall. Romero, who wants to become a registered nurse, hopes to attend UCLA or CSUN.

Whether it's being with their friends, or accumulating AP credits for their majors, high school students can look to Valley as a stepping-stone to pave the way to a rewarding career.

"I can build more [Advanced Placement credits] for my major," Ignacio explains. With a slight shrug of his shoulders, jokingly he adds, "College is more advanced, but my classes are easy."

Thanks to programs like Advanced College Enrollment, coordinated by Associate Dean of Student Services Sherri Rodriguez, qualified high school students have the opportunity to enroll in college classes as early as Freshman year.

To see them gathering at the campus library or at the bookstore, it's clear that more and more young students are eager to learn and Valley offers these students thoughts of a promising academic future.

They blend in with the other students in their classes, with baggy jeans, T-shirts and Nikes, and travel here by bus, foot or car as other students do. Unless one of these ambitious young pupils told his or her story, none would be the wiser.

Before North Hollywood High sophomore Suji Kim makes the 9-minute bus ride to the Valley campus she takes up other activities, like practicing her golf swing.

"I have golf practice after school, so basically my afternoons are full," Kim said. As she heads to class Kim shares her ideas of where she may be in the future. "I think somewhere in business or international affairs." With visions of a future in business after attending an Ivy League school, Kim finds time to take French and Spanish with her very busy schedule.

"I thought by taking more APs now I would get less pressure in my Junior and Senior year," Kim said. "It looks good on my transcript."

Determined to succeed, Grant High's Jenny Sanchez makes a point, "No one is going to do it for you. You have to do it for yourself."

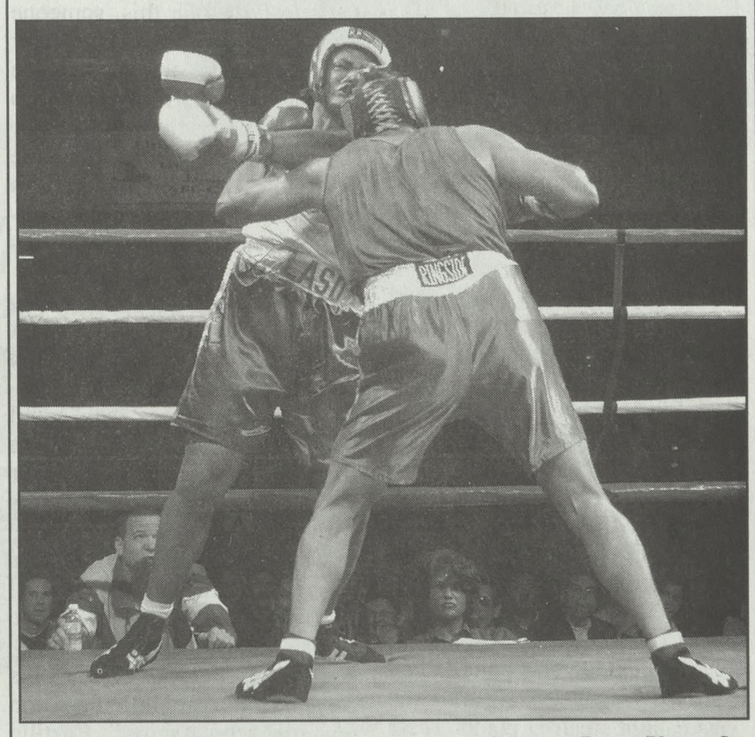
Don't be surprised if the seat next to you is occupied by a high school student willing to pursue a better education and give up time away from the pleasures of youth. For these competitive students, the challenge may bring them face to face with tougher assignments and a demanding curriculum, but it also gives them an advantage.

FIGHTING FOR LIFE



BENJAMIN FAVELA/VALLEY STAR

Boxing teams from the Los Angeles Police and Fire departments faced off against teams from Los Angeles Sheriff's and County Fire departments Friday in the 10th annual Fight For Life Boxing Event, benefiting City of Hope. Above, Susie Gross, left, from the LAPD fights against LASD pugilist Shawnee Valdivia. Below, LASD fighter Marcus Cox, rear, dukes it out against LAPD officer Gabriel Gaxiola, front. Valdivia and Gaxiola won their respective bouts.



BENJAMIN FAVELA/VALLEY STAR

Assemblyman Offers Opportunity for Citizens to Get Involved

▪ New contest provides outlet for concerned residents to influence lawmaking.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to generate creative ideas for new laws, Assemblyman Lloyd Levine is looking to the people of San Fernando Valley for inspiration.

His contest "You say, 'There ought to be a Law? Okay, I'm listening…" gives Valley residents a chance to voice their opinions and make an active contribution in state politics.

"There are a lot of good ideas out there," Stuart Waldman, Levine's chief of staff said. "I think a lot of people don't get to be heard. Now we're giving them the opportunity."

While some Valley College students show enthusiasm towards the competition, others are apathetic.

"It's kind of frightening how far people will go for new ideas," student Penelope Waters said. "Hopefully the public will come up with something better than 'no cell phones while you're driving.'"

One Valley student was particularly interested in the ability to influence policy matters and sees the contest as a tool for change.

"Personally I think there should be a law against allowing illegal aliens to have citizen rights," music student Laurie Greene said. "Those rights belong to citizens and citizens only."

Residents of all ages are encouraged to participate in the contest. Waldman believes people can have a great time while coming up with ideas and urges for ingenuity.

"This is supposed to be fun," the Valley College Alumni said. "Anyone can have a good idea, young or old. Hopefully people will come up with good ideas."

The winner will be flown to Sacramento and be taken on a tour of the State Capitol building and Assembly floor. The winner will also get a glimpse into the law making process by seeing his or her ideas debated among the members.

Entries must be turned in no later than December 31, 2003 and contain a summary of the idea (addressing a state issue, not a local or national issue,) the purpose of it and why it's needed. Name, address, phone number and email should accompany the entry.

Winners will be announced in February 2004.

"I am confident that I'll be receiving some excellent ideas," Levine said. "I encourage you to participate because your idea could become law."

There Ought to be a Law Contest

All entries can be sent to:

Assemblyman Lloyd Levine
c/o There Ought to be
a Law Contest
6150 Van Nuys Blvd.,
Suite 300
Van Nuys, CA 91401.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR

ON THE ROAD AGAIN - Valley College students board the west-bound 156 on Burbank Boulevard. Mechanics from the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1277 and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority reached a tentative contract agreement Monday. Union members will vote on the new contract today. There is still no agreement on funding of the union's health trust fund.

BE IN THE KNOW

Read the Valley Star *online* at
www.LAValleyStar.com
Sign up to have the Valley Star
sent to your E-Mail

Campus Crime

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Attempted Grand Theft Auto

Police are looking for an unidentified male after two attempted car thefts in the Valley parking lots. In this most recent attempt the suspect was seen sitting in the vehicle by the vehicle's owner. The suspect walked away stating he was late for class. The suspect is described as an Asian male, 5'8", 150 pounds with a fair complexion and short gelled-back hair. Anyone having information should contact the Sheriff's department immediately.

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Attempted Robbery

On Oct. 30 an unknown male attempted to steal the purse of a woman as she was walking to her car in Lot G. After a brief struggle with the victim, the suspect gave up and ran away. Police were unable to find the suspect.

****

Vandalism

Graffiti continues to be a problem around campus but it seems to be confined to the men's restrooms, according to police reports. The men's bungalow restroom, the behavioral science men's room and the campus center men's room have been the latest targets.

****

Parking Passes Stolen

Two parking passes, one staff and one student, have been reported stolen. Police are asking anyone whose parking passes has either been lost or stolen to report it immediately to the Sheriff's department.

****

Cat Found Dead

Another cat was found dead on campus on the south side of the behavioral science building. The cat died at another location, but had been placed on an elevated curb next to the building, according to police. There was no apparent cause of death based on the condition of its body. Animal Regulations was called to remove the body.

****

Plant Theft

A female was cited and released for petty theft after she was caught stealing plants, roots and all, from around the flag pole area.

'Governor' *continued from page 1*

sized his immigrant roots as being core to his success. "When I became a citizen 20 years ago, I had to take a citizenship test. I had to learn about the history and the principles of our republic," Schwarzenegger said. "What I learned—and I've never forgotten—is sovereignty rests with the people, not the government.

"This is the right country," Spanish and accounting student Aida Jabadarian said. "You can come here with nothing and make it; there is opportunity here."

Schwarzenegger told the worldwide audience that he would work to repeal AB60, the controversial bill signed by former Gov. Gray Davis that granted undocumented immigrants the ability to obtain a California driver's license.

The significance of Schwarzenegger's inauguration was not lost on political science professor Ken Ciminoc. He's lectured his students on the importance of capturing the middle vote. As for Schwarzenegger's ability to be an effective leader, the doctoral candidate was uncertain.

"The jury is still out for me," Ciminoc said. "His lack of political experience worries me, but his enthusiasm impresses me."

'Money' *continued from page 1*

grant for the Gates Millenium Scholarship to reduce financial barriers and increase the number of minorities enrolling in, and completing, undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Valley's financial aid web site has links that will direct you to scholarship information, according to financial aid tech Debbie Paeff-Benton.

"When we talk to students that aren't eligible for financial aid, we tell them about fastweb.com and how to navigate through it," Paeff-Benton said. "You need to stay on top of it once you've applied, though, and see it through to the end."

Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye recommends visiting the scholarship tower, the best mechanism Valley has so far, at least once a month to see what's new or visit the student assistance center located by the cafeteria to keep up on what's new and available.

"My vision for the new student services building is to have a scholarship office," Delahoussaye said. "After these budget winds die down, it would be wonderful to hire someone for an office like this, someone proactive who would know our students and be able to send the scholarship information out to them as soon as they arrive."

Even though it takes some work to fill in the applications and collect all the required documents, Delahoussaye added, "It's worth the work."

The biggest scholarship right now, according to student services, is the Jack Kent Cook Foundation, open to all community colleges across the United States. This award will give a student approximately $4,000 for every year that a student attends a transfer institution.

The Valley Patron's Association set its main goal nearly 30 years ago to raise money for scholarships.

"We're getting more folks earmarking their donation towards scholarships," Castillo said. "In the fall we look for new donors and tally it up in November and December. In January we have applications ready to go."

Last year the foundation had 88 GAIN scholarships available and distributed over $38,000 in scholarships. Castillo added that scholarship information is passed on to faculty members so they can inform students. Some of the scholarships through the Patron's Association are based on GPA and some are based on need. In February, the scholarship applications are handed out with a March 1 deadline for returning the application with all of the required documents.

With increased access to the Internet, students need not rely solely on the college for scholarship resources. Corporations in nearly every technological field offer scholarships and run various contests that offer thousands of dollars in prize money.

Visiting www.collegeboard.com, for instance, provides a link that asks specific questions about academics, age and certificate or non-certificate course enrollment. A personalized search presents scholarships specific to the criteria submitted. A search engine like Google provides a student with hundreds of sites. Scholarships.com and Fastweb.com are also great resources when looking for an opportunity to access scholarship information.

The downside for many of the scholarships is that they have a time frame in which they must be awarded or be returned to the corporations that donated them. This becomes not only a loss to students; the companies also lose their tax breaks.

Budget cuts and tuition increases have burdened students with further need to scramble for money to keep their studies going. Several centers around campus have computers available for students who have no computer or Internet access outside Valley. Now might be the time to visit one, with the winter session approaching fast and spring session right around the corner.

'Technology' *continued from page 1*

Manufacturing, some of the largest employers in the San Fernando Valley, attended to encourage the young students and impress upon them the importance of continuing their education beyond high school.

The panel of speakers included Dave Goodreau from SMI, Hagop Panossian of Boeing, Christopher Stetson and Ronald Ramilo of Precision Dynamics, Robert Yelenovsky of Konica-Minolta, David Linives from Cal State University, Dianne Gubin of Women in Technology Inc and Lynn Robinson in the CSIT department of LAVC."The technology fields are experiencing exponential growth," said General Manager of Konica-Minolta Robert Yelenovsky.

"We have 40,000 employees working for this company and we are looking for the brightest students at the college level for our intern program." Stephan Todd, director or marketing for Moore Industries, whose main trade is manufacturing interface devices said, "My company is always looking for bright students as interns, technicians and engineers."

Dianne Gubin from Tech Exec Partners, staff's information technology positions, which she said is the fastest growing sector in the technology trade worldwide. Her company staffs IT positions for many major companies throughout the state and across the U.S. She also runs an organization called Women In Technology International that is dedicated to the advancement of women in this field."We groom and mentor people so that there are more women at the top of corporations," Gubin said. Gubin dispensed valuable advice: "Hang out with people who can pull you up and keep current with the industry."

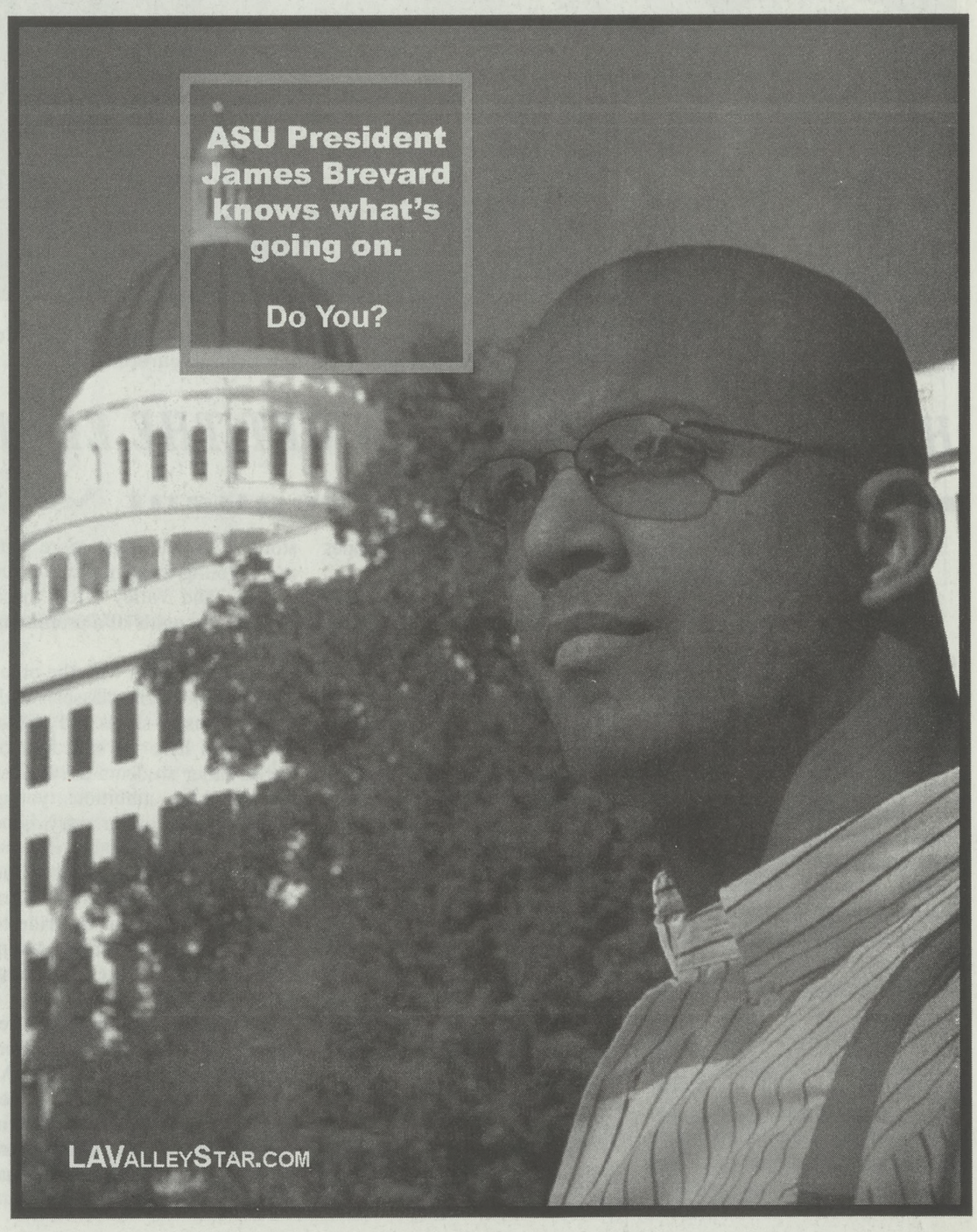
Charlie Wilken, coordinator of the machine tool academy and teacher at Van Nuys High School, brought his 9th and 10th graders enrolled in their school's program to the fair. He hopes that these younger students might start thinking much earlier than 11th grade about thier future plans regarding their education and careers.

"Most of these kids have never seen what's offered here at Valley," Wilken said. "Some have never seen a college campus before. This helps them to get an idea of where they'll be going if they continue with the machine tool program."

Displays caught the interest of Van Nuys High student Andres Resendiz, 15. "I came to find out about the different kinds of classes they offer here," Resendiz said. "I'm planning to come to Valley and I want to know what kind of career I can get."

Students had a first hand look at the campus after being sent on a scavenger hunt in the electronics and engineering departments. Although many students had used some of the equipment at the programs at their schools, the technology of the next level of their education, if they continue at a school like Valley, impressed them.

Not everyone came with the thought that their future would be in these technology services, but many left with a greater appreciation of higher education."I got some good advice today," said Laura Aramula, an 11th grader at Birmingham High School. "I realize now that I need to keep going to school and to continue my education as long as it takes to reach my goals."



'Class' *continued from page 2*

ever-growing student population and the result is larger classes and fewer opportunities for students to get the courses they need.

The summer programs were hit especially hard by the cuts. Like many students, Belyarchik couldn't take summer classes because there weren't any that coordinated with his schedule.

Complaining about the limited range of available courses, Belyarchik said, "The only classes available to me were general education or physical education classes."

Many students at Valley are experiencing the frustration of being denied access to classes when they try to register. Sought-after courses such as those required for general education transfer certification usually have long waiting lists and those lists often fill quickly. The only way to meet the demand is to go beyond the 35-student limit. However, some instructors believe that allowing students beyond the cap hurts the students more than it helps them.

"It depends on the subject, but I feel strongly that in a class where you are asking students to write essays, you really need to spend time with each essay," Valley English professor Rod Moore said. "I know teachers feel bad and want to accommodate students who need a particular class but somewhere you have to draw the line. You have to keep in mind that students have to learn in class as well. You're cheating the students. They won't get sufficient feedback."

Other instructors sympathize with students who are trying to fulfill requirements. Philosophy professor Emily Sedgwick has a policy of letting anyone add who wants to be there, and is willing to give personal attention to anyone who needs it, even if it means meeting students on the weekend to help them through the class.

"I remember what it was like, to be a student and need a class really badly," Sedgwick said. "I know there will be attrition. I know some students will drop. It always balances out in the end."

"Students are paying more money, but that is not going to translate into restored classes and services on campuses," Kristen Macintyre, a California community college spokeswoman said. "All 108 colleges are having to cut back."

Moore is confident that this predicament could be easily remedied if the government would subsidize California community colleges to add sections of classes that are pushed to their limit every semester. Until then, it will be up to the individual teacher as to whether students are allowed to add a class that's already over the limit.

'Request' *continued from page 2*

provide the entire amount due to budget constraints, the majority of student representatives at the ICC meeting favored funding the request.

Tau Alpha Epsilon made a voluntary donation of $20 from their club account. Valley Collegiate Players also stepped up with an offer to make a voluntary contribution and will come to the next meeting with an exact amount.

ASU Vice President Erick Iniguez said The Broadcasting Club will go to the finance committee to ask for $300 from general contingency and make a request for $100 from ICC.

Once they get their own equipment, the club plans to request a use donation of $10 per event so they can maintain the system and build a fund for updating equipment in the future. The broadcasting club hopes to continue to provide sound equipment for clubs in the meantime, but they will be passing along the rental costs.

"We just can't afford to keep renting speakers," she said. "If the other clubs want to use this equipment, we'll start charging them."

'Armenia' *continued from page 1*

Armenian history.

Several dance and musical acts interwoven throughout the speech featured the traditional musical instrument the duduk, enticing audience members and further drawing them into the Armenian culture. Informational boards displaying maps, history and literature offered additional insight into the Armenian culture.

"It's very important for people to learn about the Armenian civilization," Haroutun Vardanian, Valley's ASA vice president said. "Not all Armenians know about their great culture, myself included. I learn new things every time I teach it."

Vardanian also added that events like these give students the chance to represent all the different aspects of their culture while having fun.

"It's very nice to have cultural shows like this because it teaches you how to be appreciative of other cultures and people," psychology student Lisa Harris said. "This event offered a sampling and a glimpse into the Armenian culture."

"Our culture would gradually fade away if we didn't recognize it," Vardanian said, emphasizing the importance of recognizing one's own roots.

'Foster' *continued from page 2*

Michelle Smith runs the program on the Valley campus and has headed the department for the past two years. Her responsibilities range from providing the class with dinner before the teaching begins, to recruiting the guest educators who will teach the class the basic skills they need once out of the foster care system called Emancipation. "If they have no help, the kids don't think about these things," Smith said.

The students are recruited through an outreach program that contracts through the Department of Children and Family Services and is sponsored by The Community College Foundation. Ama Mondi is an outreach advisor with the CCF and is responsible for the recruiting of these foster children from within a radius of seven to 10 miles of Valley. Mondi is able to recruit an exemplary 80 percent of those children contacted. "Some of the foster children just aren't interested in participating, but I don't give up on them," Mondi said.

The challenges to keep the children in the program once they begin are enormous since the children are often moved from home to home.

"Before it was difficult with all the moving, but now [DCFS] are starting to allow the youths to remain in one location to finish the program," Mondi said. There are some situations when Mondi takes on the challenge of physically getting the students to the class herself.

She says she feels fortunate to be helping them in any way she can. "I stopped carrying a handkerchief; now I let them see me cry so that they can also see that now we move ahead."

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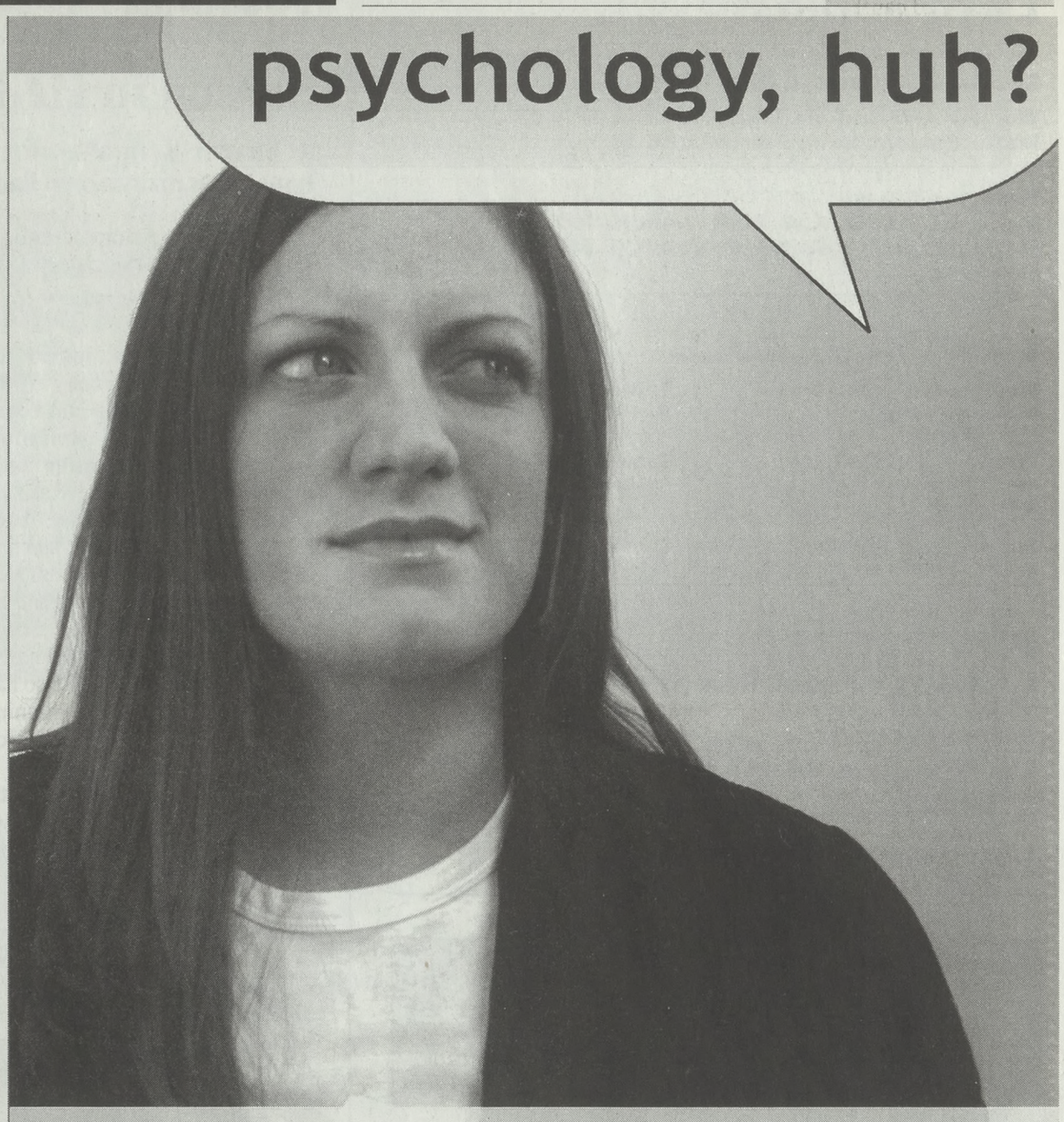
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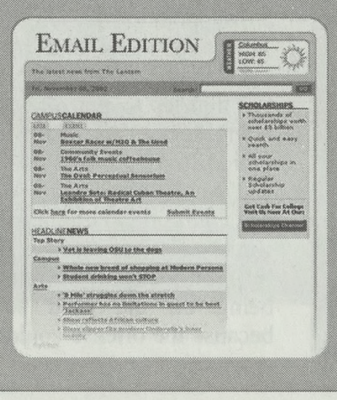
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WSC FOOTBALL

Brahmas Pierce Monarchs in the End

■ **Monarchs can't overcome mistakes, finish 1-9**

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

The Valley College Monarchs, plagued by off-field troubles and injuries, finished one of the most dismal campaigns in school history with a 38-29 loss to the Pierce College Brahmas. About 200 fans saw what was left of Valley (1-9) come up short against the struggling Brahmas (2-8) at Monarch Stadium.

"We weren't very good," Head Coach Ron Ponciano said. "We've got to get a lot better. Players have got to train harder in the off-season and not get in trouble."

Despite a frequently blitzing defense, Valley was unable to disrupt Pierce quarterback Larry Dockery in the first half. He efficiently read coverages and burned Valley for 321 yards and two touchdowns. Ex-Monarch Roger Daley hurt his former team with 135 all-purpose yards and three scores.

Meanwhile, Valley quarterback Kevin Arbuckle was knocked out of the game by two vicious sacks, the second ending his Monarch career with an injury to his left rotator cuff. Valley didn't log its first pass attempt until halfway through the second quarter, and backup quarterback Paul Hines went only 5 of 20 for 104 yards and a touchdown — all to wideout Don Daniels.

Daniels, who made sev-eral spectacular catches, said, "The offense just didn't put it together — too many penalties."

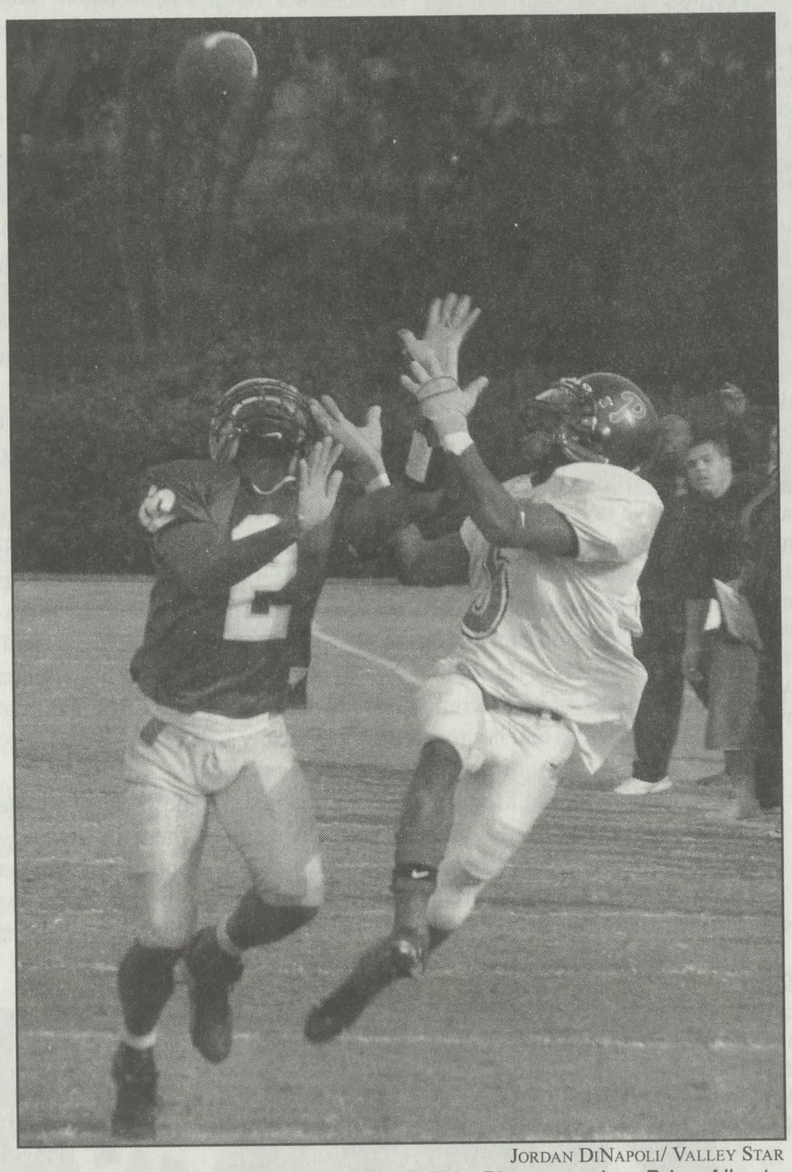
A classic 20-yard cutback by running back Edric Prim pulled Valley to within 10-7 midway through the first period. Prim had 119 yards and two touchdowns in only 17 attempts, but Dockery and Daley led Pierce to a 24-7 lead at the half.

The Monarchs came out fighting in the second half. The defense slowed Dockery, picking him twice — once on a spectacular layout by cornerback D'Andre Good and once with a 55-yard return by safety Kyle Clay.

Valley closed within two points twice, but couldn't get over the hump. Dropped passes, blown coverages, errant kicking (one punt almost hit a cheerleader) and Valley's fair share of the game's 30 penalties kept them from catching the Brahmas.

In the end, a questionable call may have sealed their fate. With less than two minutes to go, Valley declined a holding penalty that would have made it first and 20 for Pierce from the Valley 33 instead of second and 10 from the 23. Daley picked up the first down and eventually scored to put the game away.

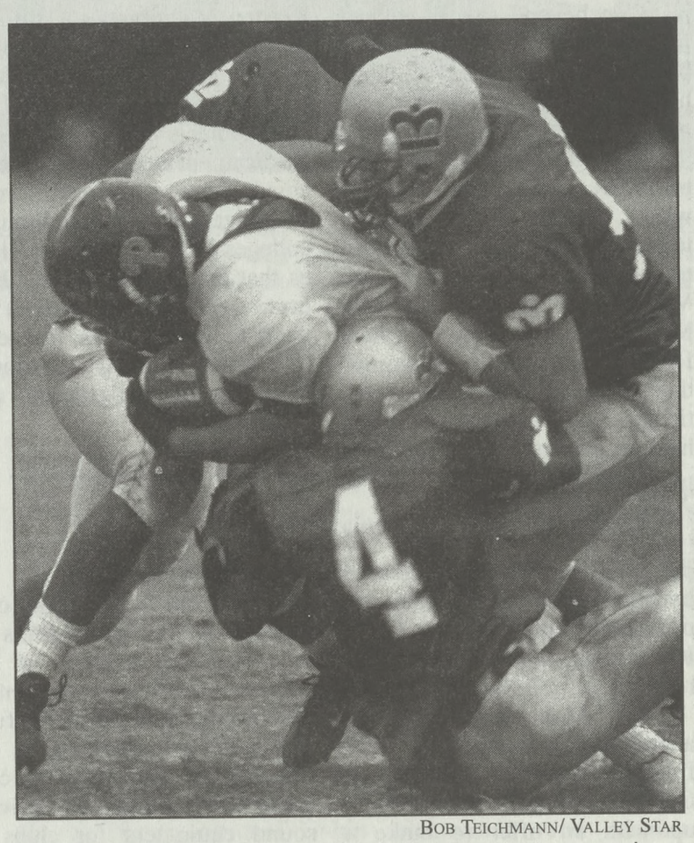
"We've got no one to blame but ourselves," Ponciano said to his players after the game. "Remember this heartache."



JORDAN DINAPOLI/ VALLEY STAR

A STEP AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION - Pierce receiver Brian Alberty, right, beats Monarch defensive back Turmarian Moreland by inches to complete this touchdown reception.

FOOTBALL
Los Angeles Valley College
Western State Conference
LAVC 38 Pierce 29 11/15/03
LAVC Final Rec: 1-9, 0-7 DIV



BOB TEICHMANN/ VALLEY STAR

GROUP TACKLE - D'Andre Good, 4, attempts to go under a Brahma running back in an attempt to take him down at the final game of the season Nov. 15.

LAVC SCORES

Football vs. Pierce (L 29-38) 11/15/03 Record: 1-9

Soccer vs. Pierce (L 0-3) 11/7/03 Record: 7-8-3

Women's Water Polo Championship 11/14/03
Water Polo vs. Long Beach (L 16-6)
2003 Western State Conference Champions

Fullerton Classic 11/12-11/16/03
M. Basketball vs. L.A. Southwest (L 110-83) Game 1
M. Basketball vs. Antelope Valley (L 66-72) Game 2
MBB Record: 0-2

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 11/19/03
No Scheduled Games

Thursday 11/20/03
Thanksgiving - No Scheduled Games

Friday 11/21/03
Men's Basketball vs. East L.A.
@ Monterey Park 7 p.m.

Saturday 11/22/03
No Scheduled Games

Sunday 11/23/03
No Scheduled Games

Tuesday 11/25/03
No Scheduled Games

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers vs. Miami Heat (W 99-77) 11/16/03
Shaquille O'Neal: 14 pts, 6 rb, 6-8 fg
Karl Malone: 11 pts, 3 ast, 10 rb
Kobe Bryant: 27 pts, 6 ast, 15-16 ft
LAL Record: 8-2

L.A. Clippers vs. Orlando Magic (W 95-92) 11/15/03
Corey Maggette: 17 pts, 7 rb, 6 ast
Chris Wilcox: 10 pts, 5 rb, 1 blk
Quentin Richardson: 31 pts, 9 rb, 3 st
LAC Record: 4-2

L.A. Kings St. Louis Blues (L 0-1) 11/15/03
GOALS: SLB - Demitra
LAK Record: 8-6-1-1



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"We've got no one to blame but ourselves. Remember this heartache."

Ron Ponciano,
Head football coach,
to his players after a 29-38 loss to the Pierce Brahmas Nov. 15.

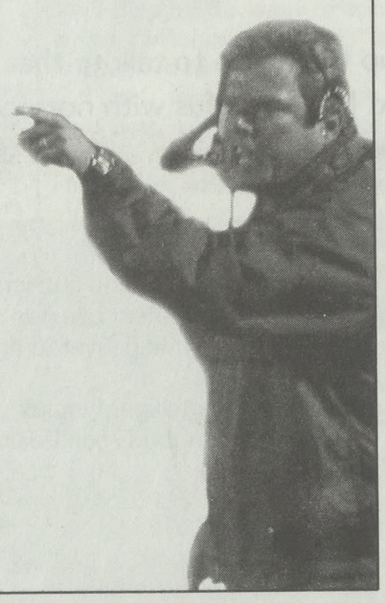


Photo by Jordan DiNapoli

FOOTBALL SEASON REVIEW

Season in Hell

■ **Monarchs tumble from high hopes to division cellar.**

BY JAYSON ADDCOX AND MICHAEL ORDOÑA
STAFF WRITERS

The Monarchs finished the 2002 season with one of the league's best defenses and began 2003 with several returning stars, including defensive linemen Tearrius George, Rashaad Goodrum and defensive back D'Andre Good. Their starting quarterback, Kevin Arbuckle, had a year under his belt and an offensive line that Head Coach Ron Ponciano called the most solid of his tenure. Valley also had top recruits, including running back Edric Prim and receiver Don Daniels. And they finished 1-9.

"The year went the total opposite direction of what we expected," Arbuckle said. "Little mistakes hurt us all season."

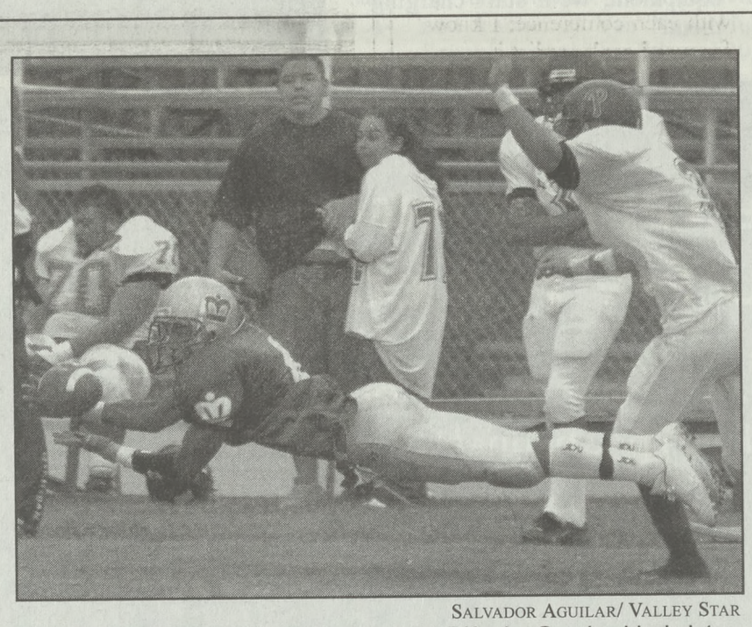
The Western State Conference was restructured to contain some of the league's best teams. Before the season, Ponciano said, "We're in a much tougher bracket, but we're excited about it. It's a big challenge, the players are up for it."

Prim established himself as the go-to guy early, but after opposing defenses keyed on him, the offense hit the skids. The one-dimensional attack finished last in the conference, averaging just 233 yards a game.

Daniels led the team with 24 receptions, but managed only one score. Quarterback Arbuckle had a disappointing season, throwing 11 interceptions and just eight touchdowns.

Injuries to the offensive line didn't help either. The Monarchs scored first just once this season, and averaged a dismal 14.9 points and committed two turnovers per game.

The defense suffered from being on the field so much because the offense couldn't control the ball, but they also had a tendency to come out flat. The defensive unit would often put it together in the second half, but by then opponents frequently had leads that the anemic offense couldn't overcome.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/ VALLEY STAR

GOOD INTERCEPTION - Defensive back D'Andre Good, mid-air, intercepts a pass from Pierce quarterback Larry Dockery. In the final game of the season, Valley came up short 29-38.

"It's a disappointment," Good said. "It's humbling. It's a growing pain in my athletic career."

It didn't help that off-field woes and attrition decimated the team. At the start of the year, there were 80 players on the roster; at the final game there were about 45 suited up with 5 on the sideline.

Pre-season All-State selection George's infamous pot bust ended his Monarchs career. At least three others were kicked off the team for violating team rules. Ponciano said, "Players have got to train harder in the off-season and not get in trouble."

Valley's lone victory came in the season opener, a thriller against San Diego Mesa. Prim scored the decisive touchdown on a last-second 6-yard run.

Despite the Monarchs' season-long offensive woes, Prim was among the league leaders in yardage when he suffered a high ankle sprain. Although hobbled, he managed to finish with 915 yards – good for fifth place in the conference.

Too often, Monarch games were marred by mistakes and penalties. Valley was flagged 76 times for 540 yards. Team quarterbacks mustered only a 41.5 completion percentage, rendering the Monarchs unable to stretch the field and mount effective comebacks.

To their credit, the team never gave up. In the season's final game (a 38-29 loss to the 2-8 Pierce Brahmas), they fought back from a 17-point halftime deficit to close within two. In a microcosm of their season, however, the Monarchs just couldn't seal the deal despite heroic efforts from Good, Daniels, Prim and hard-running Eddie Kirakosian.

Although the season ended with the team in shambles, a few players earned conference awards. Goodrum received a unanimous all-conference selection; Linebacker Jarrel Batson, cornerback Turmarian Moreland and offensive lineman Zach Howell made first team all-conference and Prim made second team all-conference. Safety Good, offensive lineman Curtis Hodgkins, kicker Gabriel Morales and safety Pedro Ramirez received honorable mentions.

When asked what the team would have to do to turn it around next year, Running Backs Coach Dave Buchanan said, "The game is played out here, but it's also played in the off-season. That's what you get during the season."

NOTES

NFL
Wideout Terrell Owens and backup quarterback Tim Rattay led the San Francisco 49ers to a 30-14 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers Monday night. Owens caught eight passes for 155 yards and a score. Rattay improved to 2-0 as a starter.

NFL
Washington Redskins quarterback Patrick Ramsey revealed on Monday after his worst performance of the year that he has been playing the entire season with a broken bone in his right foot. The injury occurred in training camp.

NHL
The Pittsburgh Penguins career scoring leader Mario Lemiex will miss at least three more games due to a right hip injury. The injury has already kept him on the sideline for two weeks.

CFB
The Ohio State Buckeyes leapfrogged the USC Trojans in the latest BCS standings by virtue of a stronger schedule, dropping the Trojans to number three. The number two team at season's end will likely play Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl for the National Championship.

NBA
The Orlando Magic fired Head Coach Doc Rivers late monday night after the team lost its tenth game of the season. Rivers led the Magic to the playoffs the last three years but was eliminated in the first round each year. The Magic are off to the worst start in franchise history and have the NBA's worst record (1-10).

MLB
Barry Bonds won a record sixth National League MVP award, becoming the first player to receive the honor in three consecutive years. Bonds hit .341 with 45 home runs and 90 RBIs. He led the league in walks, on-base percentage and slugging percentage. Wayne Gretzky is the only other athlete to have won more MVP awards, with nine in the NHL.

MLB
Texas Rangers Shortstop Alex Rodriguez won the American League MVP award Monday. Rodriguez hit .298 with 47 home runs and 118 RBIs to collect the award despite his team's last-place finish.

SPORTS

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AN OPINION

Parity or Mediocrity

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

The days of the dominant Green Bay Packers and legendary coach Vince Lombardi riding his poised quarterback Bart Starr to consecutive Super Bowls are long gone. The NFL is no longer dominated by one team; in fact any team truly can defeat any other team on any given Sunday.

The league has undergone major changes since the days of the "Steel Curtain" in Pittsburgh, when the Steelers won four Super Bowls in five years. In the '70s Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris and Lynn Swan led the Steelers to four Super Bowls without opting out of their contracts or filing for free agency. It didn't exist. The same happened with the San Francisco 49ers, who won four Super Bowls in the '80s establishing themselves as the team of the decade behind star quarterback Joe Montana and receivers John Taylor and Jerry Rice. Dynasties don't exist in the NFL anymore.

The Denver Broncos were the last team to repeat as Super Bowl champions they won 1997-98, since then it has been a revolving door with new teams entering and former champions not cutting it.

It's called parity, not mediocrity, and it's a wonderful thing. New players on new teams are making a league that was once somewhat predictable, enticing. Gamblers in Vegas hate it and who can blame them? Try picking a winner on Sundays. It's not easy, believe me, I've tried plenty.

Even the Kansas City Chiefs (9-1) are no shoo-in on Sundays, they lost this week to the Cincinnati Bengals ending their nine game winning streak. The NFL is moving in the right direction. Free agency may be a bummer when your team loses its best player, but it allows other teams to acquire top players and position themselves to compete for the Lombardi Trophy. Even perennial losers such as the Bengals Seattle Seahawks, and Carolina Panthers can rebuild in a season or two and contend.

The last five Super Bowls have featured different teams every year. The NFC sent the Atlanta Falcons in 1998, St. Louis Rams in 1999, New York Giants 2000, Rams in 2001 and Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2002. The AFC sent the Broncos in 1998, Tennessee Titans in 1999, Baltimore Ravens in 2000, New England Patriots in 2001 and Oakland Raiders in 2002. It's great for the league to have different cities represented in the Super Bowl, and it's even better for the fans.

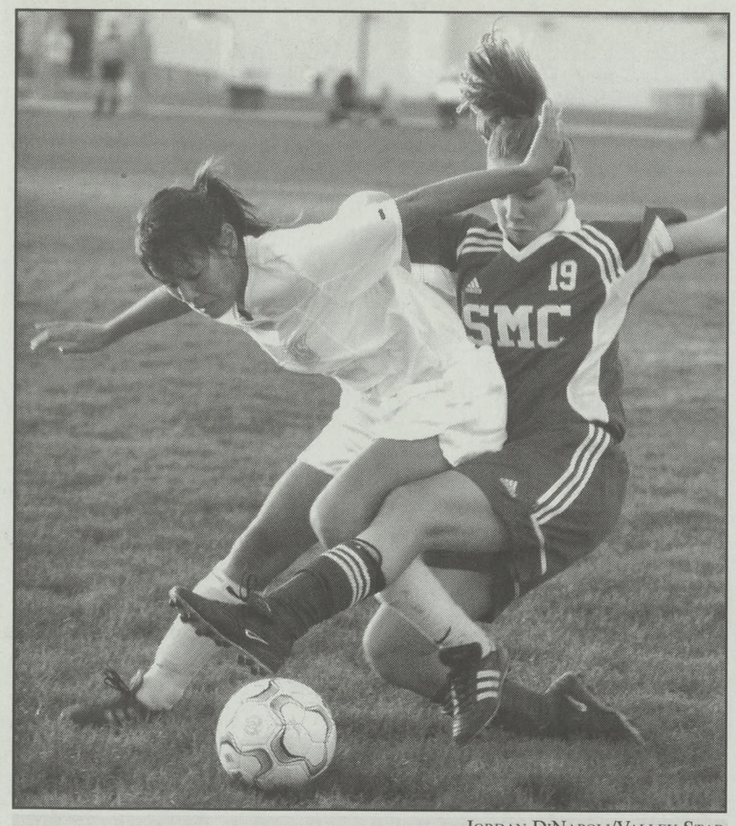
As of week 11 the Chiefs are the only team with more than eight victories. The rest of the league is battling in two-way and three-way ties. I can't wait to see who pulls away with each conference; I know for sure I can't predict it.

OFFICIAL STATS
WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE

WSC Women's Water Polo Scoring Leaders

Players	Goals
Megan Winchell (L.A. Valley)	104
Denise Valderrama (Citrus)	98
Sauve (Cuestra)	89
Jennelle Stacey (Citrus)	63
Jesse Stiles (L.A. Valley)	61
Janna Thorne (Canyons)	37
Sarah Duran (Citrus)	26
Lindsay Berke (Canyons)	25

FINAL GAME FOR THE LADIES



JORDAN DINAPOLI/VALLEY STAR

HARD SLIDE - Monarch midfielder Sara Strukoff, left, protects the ball from Corsair sweeper Stephanie Judy who slid from behind causing a foul. The 0-0 game was played at Santa Monica, finishing the season for the Lady Monarchs with a 7-8-3 record.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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Bittersweet Season for Lady Monarchs' Water Polo Crew

■ The Lady Monarchs' water polo team wins it's first playoff game against Mt. SAC but loses to the No. 1 team in the state ending their season just short of the State Championship.

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Monarchs water polo team experienced the most victorious season in Valley College's history, despite a loss to the Long Beach College Vikings 17-6 Friday. The Monarchs finished the season as the No. 6 team in the state and (23-5) overall.

"The girls should be very proud they put together a great season," Head Coach Bill Kraus said. "It's too bad we had to play the best team in the state."

The Lady Monarchs won their first playoff game defeating Mt. SAC 10-6 Nov. 12 at Citrus College. The Monarchs dominated the game form the start scoring 10 goals against a team they defeated earlier in the year by just one point. Jessie Stiles and Sammy Zuckerman each scored three goals and Megan Winchell added two goals of her own.

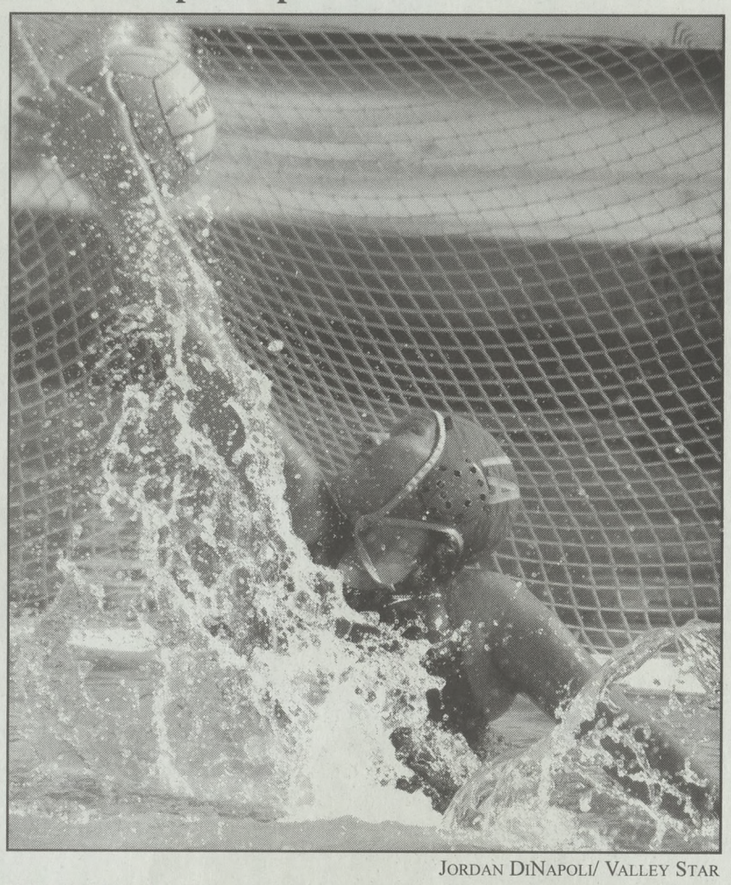
"We had an awesome season," Megan Winchell said. "I'm proud of all of us, we stepped up and held our own even against the best team in the state."

The game against the Long Beach Vikings ended with the Monarchs beaten and tired. The Vikings used a strong attack and their physical dominance overwhelmed the Lady Monarchs as they fell in defeat ending their historic season. Megan Winchell scored two goals and Kristina Garcia scored a goal in the losing effort.

"It would have been nice to play in the State Championship," Kraus said. "Long Beach was too physical, they held us all game. They were big, strong and fast; it was too much for us to handle."

Although the season is over the Monarchs are proud of their conference championship, and final ranking as the No. 6 team in the state. They also expect to produce four or five All-Southern California players.

"It was definitely a good experience," Ashely Dill said. "We were the underdog in that last game but we went in there and played hard."



JORDAN DINAPOLI/ VALLEY STAR

FINE SEASON - The Lady Monarchs rode the water polo ranks to be the No. 6 team in the state with an overall 23-5 overall record.

Tight Coverage For a Tight Group

Valley's football team benefited from a very active secondary led by sophomores Tumarian Moreland and D'Andre Good.

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

In the defensive secondary one-on-one coverage is expected. If they get beat they hear it from everyone, if they make the big play everyone sees it. Valley's secondary did it all this year, cover, blitz and hit to become one of the Western State Conferences toughest groups.

"We don't sit back there in the secondary, we bring it to the house," safety Kyle Clay said.

Five young men poised to absorb all the criticism and prepared to shine in bright lights of college football led the Monarchs pass defense.

The group — Sophomores Turmarian Moreland from West Palm Beach, Fl., D'Andre Good from Houston, TX, Richard Brown from Reseda, CA, and freshmen Kyle Clay from West Los Angeles, CA, and CJ Harris from Fort Myers, FL. — put up great numbers this year. This tight knit group learned to live together away from home and to back each other up on the field and off.

"It's been a good experience coming here to Valley," Moreland said. "We've learned to live with each other, as group we are one piece."

Although the team finished in last place (1-9), the secondary had 10 interceptions and accumulated 207 tackles, four sacks and seven tackles for a loss. Good led the team with 71 tackles and Moreland led the team with four interceptions.

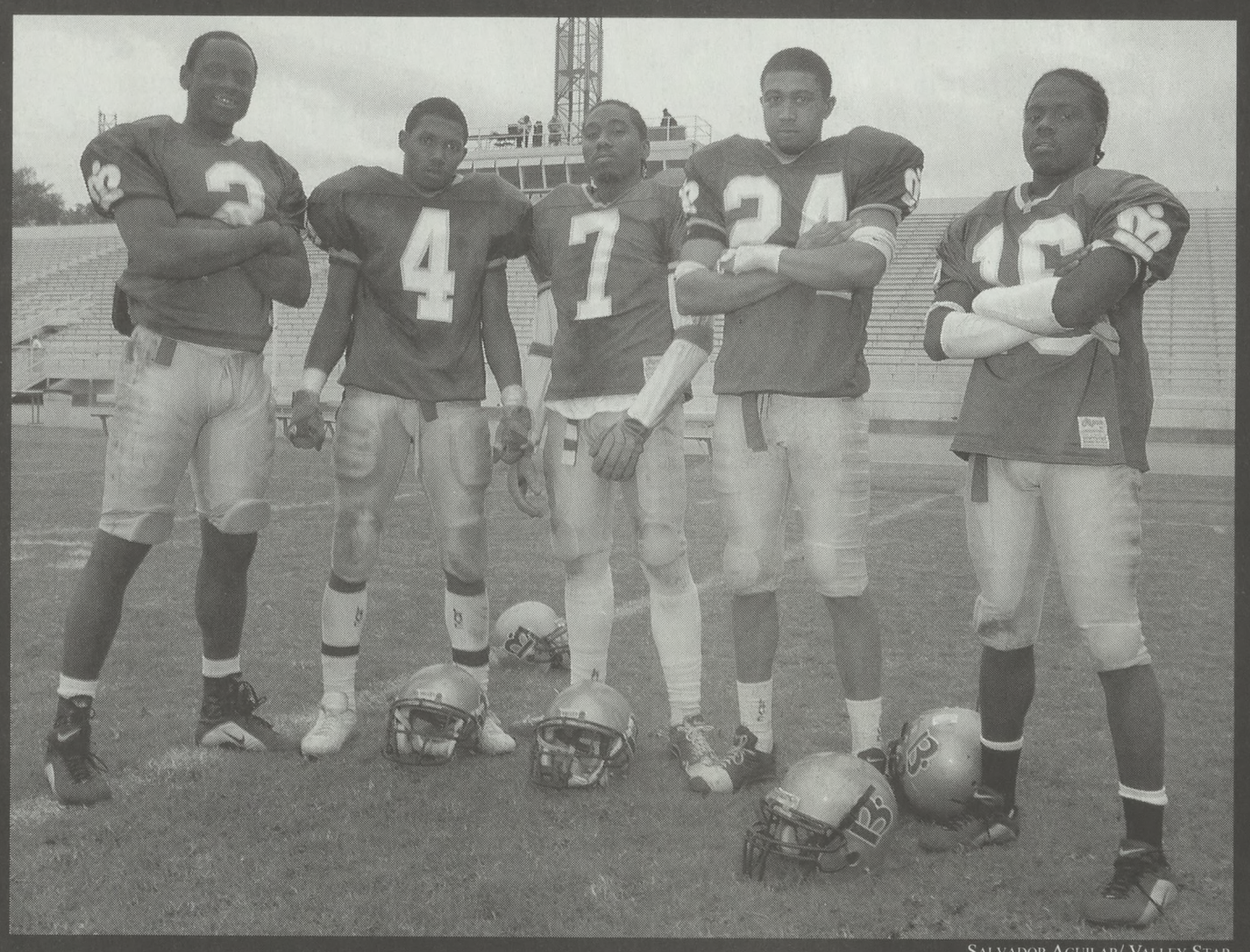
"They came together as group this year," Defensive Coordinator Josh Stevenson said. "They are a real tight knit group, they all hang out together and look out for each other."

Clay and Harris, both new to the team this year, played well in their first year. Clay had 58 tackles and Harris played his part as part of the nickel package and special teams. Brown, who started most of the season at cornerback, had one interception and broke up seven passes.

"On defense we tried to do everything," Brown said. "We even had it in our minds to try and score to help the offense."

Valley is just the first stop for these talented defensive backs. Moreland expects to transfer to the University of Syracuse, Good has Florida A&M on his mind and Brown is off to Western Illinois. Harris and Clay have another year here but are excited to see who sends them letters next season.

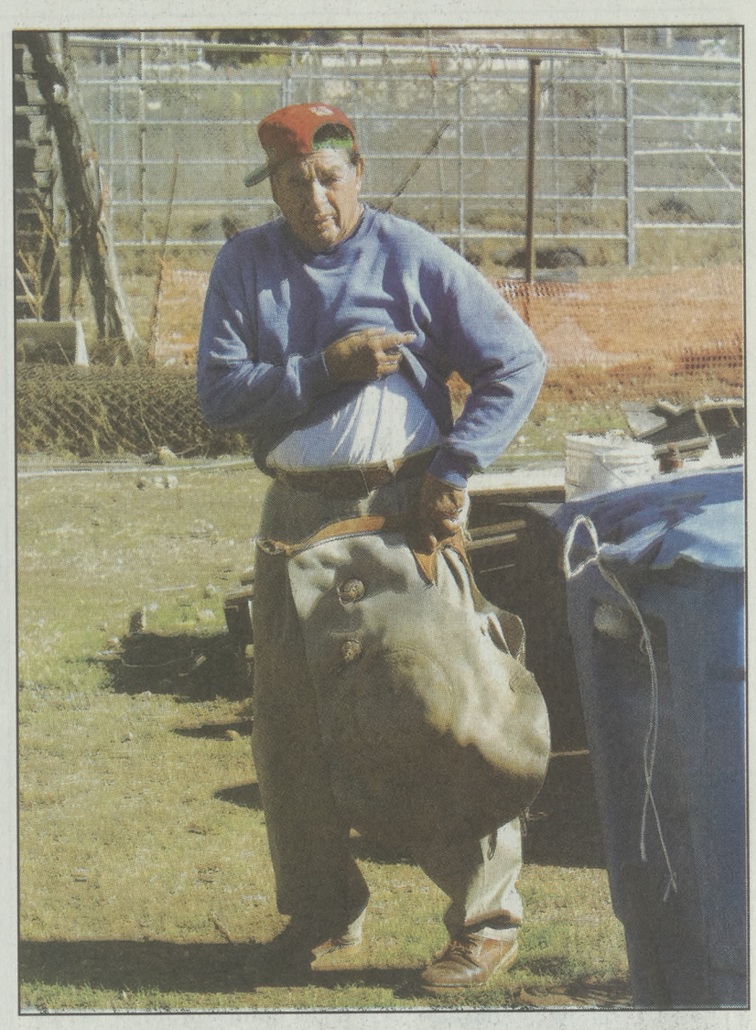
"We talk a big game, but we bring it come game time," Harris said.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/ VALLEY STAR

D-FENSE - From left to right: #2 cornerback Tumarian Goodrum, #4 defensive back D'Andre Good, #7 free safety Kyle Clay, #24 corner back Richard Brown, and #16 defensive back C.J. Harris. All five members of the defensive secondary combined for 207 tackles and 10 interceptions.









BENJAMIN FAVELA/VALLEY STAR

VALLEY'S LONG-STANDING MONARCH

TEXT AND LAYOUT BY BENJAMIN FAVELA

Not many professors at Valley College can say they've been the state chair of a political party. Nor can many professors at Valley tell stories of their failed run for California governor. And not many professors have been mentioned in a textbook used in Chicano Studies classes throughout the country. This one can.

Speech professor Andrés Torres has been working for the Los Angeles Community College District since 1962. He's known to teach his classes with humor, candor and intelligent analysis.

Torres was state chair of the Raza Unida Party (RUP), a now-defunct political party that centered on issues of Chicanos for two years in the late 1970s. Before he took the seat, he was heavily involved in protests and still is an activist for farm workers' rights.

Torres' run for governor in 1978 as the write-in RUP candidate is mentioned with a sentence in Rodolfo Acuna's "Occupied America."

Born in 1933, Torres grew up in Las Cruces, N.M., and came to Los Angeles when his truck broke down on a road trip to San Francisco.

Torres received his bachelor and master of arts degrees in speech communication from California State University, Los Angeles. He has also taught at Southwest and Mission collges, as well as several high schools in the Los Angeles area.

Torres spends much of his spare time tending to the 10 horses he has corralled across the street from his house and coaching baseball and girl's softball.



Top left: Torres adjusts the harness of his newest acquisition: an as-yet unnamed 3-week-old foal birthed from his horse Bonita.

Top right: Torres puts on some chaps to protect his legs while trying to trim Bonita's front right hoof, which is growing at an awkward angle.

Above left: Using a file, Torres trims away part of the front of the hoof, with the hopes that it will change the degree of growth.

Above right: Torres brushes away Bonita's head when she starts to fight him off during the procedure.

Bottom left: To relax, Torres plays songs on his piano, which he received from his daughter after giving it to her 24 years ago.